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WHC-04/28.COM/15A Rev
Paris, 21 June 2004
Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session
Suzhou, China
28 June – 7 July 2004

**Item 15A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties
inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 92-93 of the current *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies submit herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Where appropriate, the Secretariat or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to examine the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Information on the state of conservation of seventeen natural and eighteen cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger is submitted to the Committee to facilitate the “review at regular intervals [of] the state of property on the List of World Heritage in Danger” as foreseen in paragraph 92 of the current *Operational Guidelines*.
2. At its 27th session (June/July 2003, Paris), the Committee examined the state of conservation of the eighteen natural and fourteen cultural properties. The Committee’s decisions and recommendations with regard to each site were transmitted by the Centre to the concerned States Parties.
3. Responses from the States Parties and new information that has become available on the state of conservation of the properties since the conclusion of the 27th session of the Committee were reviewed and summarized by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies and are herewith submitted for examination by the Committee.
4. The Committee is requested to examine the reports of seventeen natural and eighteen cultural properties provided herein and take appropriate decisions in accordance with paragraph 93 of the current *Operational Guidelines*, which reads as follows:

“On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned whether:

- a) additional measures are required to conserve the property;*
- b) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;*
- c) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 46 to 56 above.”*

5. To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports as follows:

Name of property (State Party) (Identification number)

- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, respectively;
- Inscription criteria;
- International assistance provided from the World Heritage Fund to the property to date;
- Previous deliberations: Reference is made to relevant paragraph numbers from the Reports of the 26th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, the 26th ordinary session of the Committee (June, Budapest 2002) and the 27th ordinary session of the Committee (June/July, Paris, 2003). In order to limit the length of this working document to a minimum number of pages, texts from this and other previous reports have not been repeated in this document);
- Conservation issues;
- Draft Decision.

INDEX

State Party	World Heritage property	ID No.	Page
Benin	Royal Palaces of Abomey	C 323	21
Central African Republic	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park	N 475	5
Côte d'Ivoire	Comoé National Park	N 227	6
Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve	N 155-257	11
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Okapi Wildlife Reserve	N 718	7
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Kahuzi-Biega National Park	N 137	7
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Virunga National Park	N 63	8
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Garamba National Park	N136	9
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Salonga National Park	N 280	9
Ethiopia	Simien National Park	N 9	11
Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve	N 155-257	11
Mali	Timbuktu	C 119 Rev	22
Niger	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves	N 573	12
Senegal	Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary	N 25	13
Uganda	Rwenzori Mountains National Park	N 684	13
Algeria	Tipasa	C 193	23
Egypt	Abu Mena	C 90	23
Iraq	Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)	C 1130	24
Jerusalem	Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls	C 148	38
Oman	Bahla Fort	C 433	25
Tunisia	Ichkeul National Park	N 8	15
Yemen	Historic Town of Zabid	C 611	26
Afghanistan	Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam	C 211 Rev	27
Afghanistan	Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley	C 208 Rev	28
Cambodia	Angkor	C 668	29
India	Group of Monuments at Hampi	C 241	30
India	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	N 338	16
Nepal	Kathmandu Valley	C 121	31
Pakistan	Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore	C171-172	32
Philippines	Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras	C 722	33
Albania	Butrint	C 570 Bis	35
Azerbaijan	Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower	C 958	36
United States of America	Everglades National Park	N 76	17
Ecuador	Sangay National Park	N 260	18
Honduras	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve	N 196	19
Peru	Chan Chan Archaeological Zone	C 366	37

A. NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

1. Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$170,000 (to implement a technical assistance mission and a rehabilitation plan).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.1

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session, the Committee recommended that IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the State Party, urgently undertake a mission to the property to evaluate the status of the outstanding value for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List and the extent to which that value may have been irreversibly compromised by the prevailing threats to the property. The mission to the property was delayed, as there have been problems in identifying the lead person in the State Party for its organization. In the past, the Central African Republic had one single Ministry, which dealt with water and forestry, hunting, fisheries, tourism and the environment. The new Government has split up this Ministry into three Ministries: one for water, forest, hunting and fisheries, a second one for tourism and a third for environment, sustainable development and social economics. The Centre received a letter dated 31 March 2004 by the Minister of Waters, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries inviting the Centre and IUCN to undertake the mission as soon as possible.

The implementation of the US\$150,000 Emergency Rehabilitation Plan of the property has remained under suspension following the unrest that followed the unseating of the Government in March 2003. In the letter from the Minister for Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries mentioned above, the Centre is informed on the improved political and security situation in the country and a revised Emergency Rehabilitation Plan is submitted as requested by the Committee. The plan will be implemented jointly between the Ministry for Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries, the European Union funded project "Conservation et Utilisation rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale" (ECOFAC), which is in charge of a wildlife management project around the property, and the national non-governmental "Association Pour la Protection de la Faune Centrafricaine"(APFC). The revised plan foresees activities to reinforce surveillance, increase awareness of the local populations for the conservation of the property, an evaluation of the state of conservation of the property,

the preparation of a management plan and some activities aiming at the revival of tourism activities. The implementation of the Emergency Rehabilitation Plan is foreseen from May 2004 to June 2005. Further investment will be critical to sustain and develop the activities after completion of this first phase and financial resources need to be mobilised for the continuation of such activities. On 9 April 2004, the Centre met at UNESCO headquarters the Minister of the newly created Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Social Economics. The Minister further informed the Centre that the Central African Republic is in the process of creating an inter-ministerial committee that will oversee the implementation of the Emergency Rehabilitation Plan.

At the time of the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa (September 2003), IUCN held an informal meeting with the technical advisor to the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries of the State Party, and a former consultant for the ECOFAC project. It was recommended that a mission alone will not be sufficient to overcome the problems at this property, but that a meeting between all stakeholders is required to facilitate the development of a major programme of action and fundraising strategy for the property. Stakeholders should include the relevant national Ministries, ECOFAC project coordinators, IUCN, the Centre and local associations, such as the hunting associations. In the mean time the IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Central African Republic, which is due to be signed in May 2004. This MoU seeks to provide support from IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa to the State Party in relation to programmes for the sustainable management of the natural resources of that country. Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park will be one of the sites targeted to be a beneficiary under the MoU.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15A.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Reiterates its serious concern for the state of conservation of Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park and the need for increased international support and co-operation, including that between the Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan;
2. Notes that the State Party has provided a revised Emergency Rehabilitation Plan and has invited the Centre and IUCN to undertake a mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property;
3. Recommends that the State Party, the Centre and IUCN cooperate to field a mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, including the review of the implementation of the Emergency Rehabilitation Plan and to submit the findings and recommendations of that mission for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005. This mission should include the

organization of a stakeholder meeting to develop a major programme of action and fundraising strategy for the conservation of the property. The State Party may wish to seek international assistance for the organization of this meeting;

4. Recommends that the State Party and the Centre cooperate to enable the start of the implementation of the Emergency Rehabilitation Plan;
5. Invites the State Party to cooperate with the Centre, IUCN, the ECOFAC programme and other conservation agencies and donors to mobilise the necessary resources to sustain and further develop the activities foreseen under the revised Emergency Rehabilitation Plan and other activities that may be developed for implementation after the mission;
6. Decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983
Year of Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003
Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$50,000 for technical co-operation.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7B.3

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session, the Committee decided to inscribe the Comoé National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger following a report by the State Party on the impact of the outbreak of civil unrest in the country on the property and requested IUCN and the Centre to carry out a mission as soon as the security situation permitted, in order to review the state of conservation of the property and to develop an emergency rehabilitation plan, which would include benchmarks and timeframes for removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Centre received a letter from the State Minister of Environment dated 20 February 2004 in which the Government of Côte d'Ivoire invites the Centre and IUCN to undertake a mission to both Comoé and Tai National Park. To date, it was not possible to field this mission given the fact that the UN Security Coordinator advised the Centre that all non-essential travel to Côte d'Ivoire should be avoided because of the prevailing security situation in the country.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15A.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Reiterates its concern about the continuing insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire and its potential impact on Comoé National Park;
2. Requests the State Party to submit by 1 February 2005, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the impacts of the conflict on the integrity of the property and its World Heritage values for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
3. Thanks the State Party for inviting the IUCN/UNESCO mission and recommends that IUCN and the Centre undertake the mission as soon as the security situation permits;
4. Decides to retain Comoé National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Okapi Wildlife Reserve (N 718)

Year of inscription on the on the World Heritage List: 1996
Year of inscription on the on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997
Criteria: N (iv)

Kahuzi-Biega National Park (N 137)

Year of inscription on the on the World Heritage List: 1980
Year of inscription on the on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997
Criteria: N (iv)

Virunga National Park (N 63)

Year of inscription on the on the World Heritage List: 1979
Year of inscription on the on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1994
Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Garamba National Park (N 136)

Year of inscription on the on the World Heritage List: 80
Year of inscription on the on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996
Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Salonga National Park (N 280)

Year of inscription on the on the World Heritage List: 984
Year of inscription on the on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999

Criteria: N (ii) (iii)

International assistance:

Total amount provided to the properties:

Virunga National Park: US\$64,000 for equipment, staff allowances and training;

Garamba National Park: US\$157,845 for equipment and staff allowances;

Kahuzi-Biega National Park: US\$64,848 for equipment purchase;

Okapi Wildlife Reserve: US\$23,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the property, guard training and camp construction;

Salonga National Park: US\$85,500 for project planning, infrastructure and staff training.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.2

26 COM 21 (a) 2

Conservation issues:

Since the 27th session, the security situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo improved considerably. However, certain regions remain unstable and have been characterised by sudden resurgence of violence. This has been especially the case in the eastern part of the country, where 4 of the 5 World Heritage properties are located. Following the approval of the new constitution in April 2003, the Transitional Government, in which the Presidential coalition, all rebel groups and representatives of civil society are represented, was formed on 30 June 2003, thereby formally re-uniting the whole country. On 28 July, 2003 the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was extended in time and an additional mandate provided, allowing it to assist the Government in disarming and demobilising militia groups, and under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, authorizing the use of force to protect civilians. MONUC has now deployed troops in several of the eastern regions, including around Kahuzi-Biega and Virunga National Parks. A meeting was held between senior representatives of MONUC, the Centre, staff of the Management Authority "Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature" (ICCN) and representatives of the non-governmental conservation organizations to discuss closer co-operation in the demilitarisation of the World Heritage properties. It was agreed that where MONUC is conducting disarmament operations they would cooperate closely with ICCN field staff.

The situation in the **Okapi Wildlife Reserve** improved considerably since the 27th session. Since April 2003, stability returned to the Ituri region after the violent clashes between different rebel groups from October 2002 until March 2003, which resulted in the Reserve's headquarters being abandoned and looted. Park staff returned to the Reserve in April 2003 and management operations were resumed by July 2003. Park staff currently control about 60% of the 1,370,000 ha Reserve. Troops stationed originally inside the Reserve were moved to the surrounding towns as requested by the Centre. However,

poaching organised by military belonging to former rebel factions continues to be a major problem, especially in the northern and south-eastern part of the Reserve. These armed groups are specifically targeting elephant populations and are involved in poaching and trafficking of ivory. Park staff were able to document 116 cases of elephant poaching and ivory trafficking between 2002 and 2003. Based on these reports, it is estimated that between 230 and 460 elephants were killed in this period, representing 4 to 10 % of the pre-war population. Reports also indicated that the ivory is being exported, in contravention to CITES Convention, to several countries in East and Central Africa, Middle East and Southeast Asia.

As reported at the 27th session, intensive fighting took place in and around the **Kahuzi-Biega National Park** between October 2002 and April 2003. Park authorities were able to contact the belligerents and received assurances from both sides that the gorilla families living in the highland sector would not be harmed. Park staff was able to continue monitoring 4 of the 5 families of the sector. However in January 2004, with the on-going military activities in the property, contact was lost with the fifth Mishebere gorilla family, composed of 39 individuals. After the cessation of hostilities, Park staff started a search for the family, which appeared to have vanished. The remains of the leading silverback male of the family were recovered in August 2003.

Even after the installation of the Transition Government, the insecurity persisted in the South Kivu region with sporadic fighting around the Park in July and August 2003. Only after MONUC installed an observation post in the Park headquarters in August and engaged in demobilizing fighters, the situation started to improve gradually. With the increased security, Park staff has been able to regain control over parts of the Park that so far had been inaccessible. Guard posts in Kalonge, Musenyi and Lemera in the high altitude sector were re-occupied in February 2004 and the sub-stations of Nzovu and Itebero in the low land sector, which were abandoned since the beginning of the war in 1996, became functional again in March 2004. It will be important to use this opportunity to conduct surveys in both the highland and lowland sectors to assess the impact of the war on the property and on the populations of flagship species such as gorillas and elephants. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is currently planning a survey of the highland sector and is trying to mobilize the financial resources necessary for a survey of the much larger lowland sector.

Illegal mining for colombo-tantalite, gold and cassiterite remains a serious threat to the property. The first report from the lowland sector indicates that 98 mining sites are still in operation within the sector. Another major mining site is exploited by militiamen in the northern part of the highland sector. An estimated 5,000 miners are currently residing in the Park. In spite of the lower prices on the

world market, the market for colombo-tantalite in the provincial capital Bukavu is booming.

Another key issue is the illegal occupation of parts of the property, most notably in the corridor between the highland and lowland sector. In some cases, the occupants detain permits issued illegally by the local authorities. Park authorities have been fighting a court case against the most prominent of them, a Bukavu judge. Given the complicity of the local authorities, there is a need for a strong intervention by the central Government to resolve the issue.

The situation in the **Virunga National Park** remains problematic. The 2 main conservation issues remain the presence of military troops and armed groups within and in the immediate vicinity of the property and illegal encroachment.

Although the security situation has improved considerably, different militia, including armed factions from neighbouring countries, continue to operate in the region and heighten insecurity in certain sectors of the property. Since October 2003, MONUC has deployed troops in the region and is engaged in disarming and demobilisation operations. Several military positions and roadblocks manned with military belonging to former rebel factions are still present in different locations in and around the property at Katanda, at the Vitshumbi roadblock, at Rwindi and at Kabasha, officially to ensure security. In the northern sector, a military training camp is installed inside the Park near the patrol post of Nyaleke. Troops are not paid and do not receive any food or other supplies. They are involved in large-scale poaching of elephants, buffalo, hippopotamus and other animals and in the trafficking of ivory. IUCN reports that it received information that 4 guards were killed recently in an ambush by military when trying to reveal information on poaching by the military. A recent survey of the hippopotamus population in the park by the Zoological Society of London was able to locate only 1300 individuals, a mere 4,5 % of the population in 1979 and 12 % of the pre-war population estimate. In the northern sector, the elephant population dropped from 130 individuals in 1981 to 21 individuals in 2003 and the buffalo diminished in the same period from 799 to 42. These figures are dramatic but one has to take into account that because of the heavy poaching pressure, parts of the populations might have sought refuge in adjacent protected areas in Uganda such as the Queen Elizabeth National Park or the Semuliki National Park, where protection of wildlife is more effective. The increase of the elephant population in Queen Elizabeth National Park from 500 individuals in 1995 to more than 1000 today might partly be attributable to movements of elephants across the border.

Illegal encroachment both by agriculturalists and pastoralists and through the establishment of permanent settlements is affecting almost all sectors of the park. In the Nyamulagira sector, an estimated 30,000 people have occupied parts of the park in Kiroliwwe, Burungu and Mushari. As reported at the 26th session, local authorities

in Goma started to resettle in this region returning refugees originating from Masisi after their camps in Rwanda were dismantled in 2002. However, although security in Masisi has improved considerably, they seem not inclined to return to their region of origin. Other people seem to take advantage of the situation to settle in the area. An estimated 30,000 ha of evergreen forest has been destroyed for charcoal production and the area converted into fields and pastures. There are at least 5,000 heads of cattle in the area. Following numerous interventions by ICCN, the Centre and non-governmental conservation organizations that were reported to the 27th session of the Committee, the provincial authorities have in principle accepted to evacuate the area. However they advance the argument that extra funds are needed to organise the resettlement as a reason for not implementing this decision. IUCN reports that it received information that Rwandan military are guarding the resettlement area and are preventing ICCN from accessing it and that local politicians are distributing plots in the forests to produce charcoal and converting the plots afterwards for cattle ranching for their own use. In the northern sector of the Park, at least 16,000 ha of fields were installed and 150 houses constructed with the consent of the local authorities belonging to a former rebel faction. On coastal areas west of Lake Edward, at least 20,000 people have settled. This region is situated on what used to be the border between–Uganda and Rwanda controlled areas and was till recently inaccessible to ICCN field staff. Around 350 families of Hima and Karuruma pastoralists from Uganda, with more than 5,000 heads of cattle are still present in the northern sector. These pastoralists were installed in the Park in 1999 by Ugandan troops that were present there at that time. Two meetings were held recently between the authorities of DRC and Uganda to discuss their return to Uganda, without any results.

However, since the 27th session, ICCN with the assistance of its partners was able to make considerable progress in reclaiming some of the occupied regions of the park. In the Nyamulagira sector, 5,000 ha of encroached land could be recuperated at Kibiriza and an agreement was reached with the local population to evacuate a further 5,000 people who destroyed 25 ha in the forest on the Kabasha escarpment. In Tongo-Kanyangiri 40 ha were recuperated. In the eastern sector at Kongo, 20,000 ha were recuperated with the assistance of the Governor. In the northern sector, more than 7,000 farmers from Uganda were evacuated and 6,500 ha recuperated; and in Kanyatsi a further 750 farmers were evacuated and 3,000 ha recuperated. Some of these evacuations took place in the framework of a participatory effort to demarcate Park borders by WWF that is funded as part of the Belgian community conservation project implemented by the Centre.

A further conservation problem is the management of the fishing activities in Lake Edward. At the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, ICCN recognised 3 fishing concessions at the southern edge of the lake, in the villages of Vitshumbi, Nyakakoma and Kyavinyonge. These 30-year concessions have now officially expired. During the conflict, the resident populations in these villages increased considerably. New villages and illegal

fishing camps have been installed along the western and northern shoreline, often controlled by the military. The total population on the shores of the lake is now estimated at more than 20,000 people. A scientific study in 1989 estimated the total production capacity of the lake at 10,000 tons per year, sufficient to guarantee income for 700 fishing families. Unless illegal fishing activities are curtailed and camps removed a collapse of the fish populations can be expected destroying a major livelihood source of the local community.

The best-protected sector of the Park remains the gorilla sector. A survey in September 2003 executed jointly by ICCN, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Rwanda Park authorities with the assistance of different conservation organizations over the entire mountain gorilla range (Virunga National Park, Volcano National Park in Rwanda, Mgahinga National Park and Bwindi National Park in Uganda) revealed that the population increased from 324 in 1989 to 380 in 2003.

The **Garamba National Park** is not only affected by the political instability but even more so by the war in Sudan. It was noted in previous reports that key animal populations decreased significantly at the start of the war in DRC in 1997, when Park guards were disarmed and different militia groups occupied the Park station; but since 1998, through increased surveillance efforts, populations of key species remained fairly stable. Unfortunately, this situation changed significantly since the 27th session of the Committee. In July 2003, poaching pressure increased significantly and the focus of the poaching seems to have changed from meat to ivory. As this activity demands less time, poachers who don't have to stop to smoke the meat, do kill more and more animals. An aerial survey in August 2003 showed 34 fresh elephant and two rhino carcasses. All animals were killed by automatic gunfire and their tusks and horns had been removed. In November 2003, 47 more fresh elephant carcasses were found in an area where a group of northern white rhino occur. On 20 April 2004, the Centre received another report from the Garamba Project that Sudanese poachers were spotted accompanied by 25 donkeys loaded with ivory, moving rapidly towards the Sudanese border. Ground patrols found the carcasses of two rhinos and 12 elephants in the area. Only the horn and ivory was taken. This is the first time poachers were reported using pack animals. There is now evidence that between September 2003 and the time of the preparation of the document at least five rhinos were killed out of a total population of approximately 30 animals. Now that poachers have entered the heart of the Park, the threat to the last remaining northern white rhinos is greater than it has ever been in the last 20 years. Poachers are predominantly SPLA rebels aided by Congolese porters. Ironically, the increase in poaching seems to be connected to the progress in the peace talks in Sudan and the subsequent cease-fire agreement between the SPLA and the Sudanese government, resulting in fighters coming back from the front and turning towards poaching. It has to be noted that a large group of SPLA rebels is stationed in the DRC town of Aba and that there is no presence of DRC military in this region. In response to this situation,

an emergency strategy was developed by ICCN and its conservation partners aiming to reverse this situation. The strategy focuses on re-training guards to better equip them to deal with professional bush war fighters, providing the necessary equipment to increase the law enforcement effectiveness and taking steps to put pressure on the SPLA to withdraw their fighters from the region. Several meetings were already held with SPLA officials, in which they promised to recall their troops but the local SPLA commander so far has refused to comply with this decision. A report on the situation was sent by UNESCO to MONUC, requesting them to consider stationing military observers in the region and to inform the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Special UN Envoy for Humanitarian Needs for Sudan.

The situation in the **Salonga National Park** remains unchanged. Commercial poachers, often well-equipped former military personnel or rebels, with automatic weapons and outboard motors, operate along the rivers in the Park. Bush meat and ivory are alleged to be transported by commercial planes to Kinshasa. Although Park guards receive some support through the UNESCO/UNF project and from other partners such as the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, mainly for salaries, rations and medicine and limited equipment, the Park remains grossly under-funded and continues to lack proper management. Park guards only have some arms seized from poachers and are not allowed to wear uniforms. Currently surveys of key species are being conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Preliminary results indicate that in certain areas, large mammals populations have decreased considerably. WCS is also conducting socio-economic surveys as well as a population census in the corridor that separates the two principal forest blocs of the Park, as part of the Belgian community conservation project implemented by the Centre.

With stability returning to the country, the Government, with support of donors such as the World Bank and the European Union, is planning to rehabilitate the national road network in DRC. Already rehabilitation works are scheduled for roads that cross the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. It will be important to guarantee that these infrastructure works are done without causing negative impact on the habitat of the World Heritage properties. The re-opening of roads to motorized traffic might result in increased bushmeat trade and immigration of populations from the densely populated regions into areas adjacent to the properties.

The Centre continued its support to the 5 World Heritage properties through its project "Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict, Protecting World Heritage Sites in DRC" in close co-operation with ICCN and with its on the ground partners in each of the sites (German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Gilman International Conservation (GIC), International Rhino Foundation (IRF), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), and the Zoological

Society of Milwaukee (ZSM)). The project, funded by the United Nations Foundation with complementary support from the Government of Belgium, will end in December 2004.

As recommended by the 27th session of the Committee, the Director-General of UNESCO in co-operation with the Government of DRC has launched an international campaign to mobilise the necessary support to continue the conservation activities in the DRC World Heritage properties. A high-level conference will take place at UNESCO headquarters 16-17 September 2004. The objectives of the conference are (a) to obtain a high-level political commitment from the Transition Government to address the key conservation problems of the World Heritage properties, such as encroachments, illegal resource extraction and the presence of military and armed groups; (b) to mobilize necessary financial resources to sustain the achievements of the UNESCO/UNF project and ensure recovery of the World Heritage values of the five properties; and (c) to raise awareness in the international community for the conservation of the World Heritage properties in DRC. The President of DRC has accepted an invitation by the Director-General to attend this conference, thereby demonstrating his commitment to the conservation of the World Heritage properties. Several personalities, including the President of France and the Royal Family of Belgium have already accepted to be patrons for the event. The Government of Belgium, the Government of Italy and UNF have indicated their willingness to support the future programme through their financial support to UNESCO. UNESCO is also discussing with the European Union, the World Bank, the Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment and others on how to support the properties through their on-going or planned conservation initiatives in the Congo Basin. Parallel to the conference, the Government of Belgium will organise an exhibition at UNESCO on the biological and cultural diversity of DRC during 8 –27 September 2004. At the donor conference UNESCO expects to have pledges from some of the major multilateral donors like the World Bank and the EU to invest in building capacity for protected areas, including the five World Heritage sites of DRC.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction that the installation of the Transition Government and the deployment of MONUC around some of the properties has put an end to many of the hostilities in and around the 5 World Heritage properties and has enabled the management authority ICCN to regain control of parts of some of the properties;*
2. *Commends ICCN and especially its dedicated field staff, UNESCO and its partners in the project “Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict” for their on-going efforts to protect the*

integrity and the World Heritage values of the properties;

3. *Reiterates its serious concern about the continuing threats to the properties, especially encroachment and extraction of natural resources, including mining, with the consent of local political or military authorities and the poaching and ivory trafficking by armed groups, including former rebel troops that are awaiting demobilisation or integration in the national army;*
4. *Expresses special concern on the sudden upsurge in poaching in the Garamba National Park by SPLA fighters, which is threatening with extinction the last population of the northern white rhino;*
5. *Urges the Transition Government to take all necessary steps to restore the integrity of the properties, especially of the Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks, by taking urgent measures to evacuate all illegal settlements and halt all illegal resource extraction;*
6. *Urges the Transition Government to pull all military positions, including former rebel troops awaiting demobilization or integration in the national army out of the five World Heritage properties and station them at sufficient distance from the properties and requests MONUC to pay particular attention to the demobilization and disarmament of armed groups inside and in the immediate vicinity of the properties;*
7. *Requests the Director General of UNESCO to use UN and other appropriate diplomatic channels to influence high-level SPLA officials, urging them to put a halt to the poaching by their fighters as well as an immediate retreat of SPLA troops from the vicinity of the Garamba National Park;*
8. *Commends the Director-General of UNESCO for the organization of the high-level conference on the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties in September 2004 and invites all State Parties to the Convention, as well as international donor agencies, foundations and the private sector to support this initiative and post-conference rehabilitation of the five World Heritage properties;*
9. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint Centre/IUCN mission to Virunga National Park, Kahuzi-Biega and Garamba National Parks to assess their current state of conservation and report on the findings of the mission in view of examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;*
10. *Decides to retain the Garamba, Salonga, Kahuzi Biega and Virunga National Parks and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

4. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property US\$149,307 (for technical assistance and training).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.3

Conservation issues:

At the time of the preparation of the document, the State Party had not submitted the report requested by the Committee at its 27th session to provide additional information on progress made on the state of conservation of the property, particularly in relation to the benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and other recommendations outlined in the IUCN/UNESCO mission report of April 2001.

However IUCN has received a report dated 12 March 2004 from the "Simien Mountains National Park Integrated Development Project" a project funded by the Austrian Government. This project operates in and around the Park focusing on five major issues: strengthening Park management; community based tourism development; agricultural intensification; natural resource rehabilitation and conservation and enhancing the capacity of communities and institutions. The report provides figures on the increase in the population of wildlife, specifically the Walia Ibex and Simien Fox. Numbers of Walia Ibex are said to have increased from 514 in 2001 to 558 in 2002 and to 579 in 2003, indicating a significant and continuous increase compared to the 1995 figure of 270. Simien Fox numbers show an increase from 41 in 2001 to 45 in 2002 and 2003, a significant increase from the 1997 estimate of 20 to 30 individuals. These numbers concur with the numbers reported in last years report by the State Party. IUCN is currently seeking input from the Canid Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission to verify the increase in numbers reported.

The report notes that the construction and installation of different tourist facilities has increased the number of tourists, which in turn increases the income of the community in and around the Park. It is stated that the introduction of new technologies of crop production, vegetable and tree seedling production have decreased the agricultural expansion and deforestation within the World Heritage property and that awareness campaigns to inform local communities about the use of the Park, tourism and natural resources have created a sense of ownership and support for the Park.

The report provides no information with regard to other benchmarks set by the Committee at its 25th session, which are included in the draft decision.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the Austrian Government for its support to the property through the Simien Mountains National Park Integrated Development Project;
2. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide by 1 February 2005, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005, specifically on progress made in relation to the benchmarks set by the 25th session of the Committee for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger on the following issues:
 - a) Realignment of the Park's boundary to exclude the villages along the boundary;
 - b) Extension of the Park to include at least Mesarerya and Lemalino Wildlife Reserves;
 - c) Significant and sustainable reduction in the human population density within the Park, especially within the core area; and
 - d) Effective conservation within the extended National Park of a larger population of Walia Ibex and Simien Fox.
3. Decides to retain Simien National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

5. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155/257)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981, extended in 1982

Year of Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property US\$443,349 (project preparation, consultants, equipment and training). In 2003, a further US\$30,000 was approved for the Mount Nimba Conservation Project.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.4

26 COM 21 (a) 3

Conservation issues:

On the Guinean part of the property, the 9-year UNDP Global Environment Facility-supported programme: "Conservation of the biodiversity of the Nimba Mountains through integrated and participatory management" will be launched in 2004. This project will support and strengthen conservation efforts in the full Nimba Mountains Biosphere Reserve, including the Nimba Mountains World Heritage property. In support of the programme, an initiative to understand hunting patterns, and its dynamics and impacts on the World Heritage property was approved

for funding by the Netherlands Committee for IUCN. Managed by two non-governmental organizations, Sylvatrop and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and in close collaboration with Guinean governmental authorities, the project will allow local villages and hunters to recognize the problem of over-hunting where it exists and to develop appropriate solutions to manage wildlife in a sustainable way. In addition, primate research and environmental awareness campaigns continue, based out of the Environmental Research Institute of Bossou, with support from the Kyoto University Primate Research Institute, the University of Stirling and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. As part of this project, efforts to establish a forested corridor between the World Heritage property and the Bossou Hills, to permit movements of chimpanzees between the two sites, continue. As part of a new project to provide emergency assistance to natural World Heritage properties in need, which was approved by the UN Foundation in 2003 and which will be implemented through the Centre and FFI, some funding is also earmarked for the property.

With regard to the refugee issue, a report commissioned by FFI, published in July 2003, entitled "Assessment of Refugee Activities Impact on the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve", mentions that the Mount Nimba range played host to a large number of refugees and that the refugee populations significantly increased local community populations within the buffer and transition zones of the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve. However, as a result of a swift relocation of refugees in camps set up away from the property, the negative impacts to Mount Nimba property have been minimized.

The Centre and IUCN were informed that, in late 2003, the EuroNimba consortium repossessed the main mining exploration station in the mining enclave within the World Heritage property in anticipation of restarting exploration studies, including collection of environmental baseline information.

In spite of the cessation of hostilities, security remains tenuous in the part of the property located in Côte d'Ivoire. The European Union is taking steps to restart its 'Programme transitoire', channelling support through Conservation International (CI) to the appropriate authorities in the Directorate of Nature Protection (DNP) in Côte d'Ivoire.

Due to insecurity, no further progress has been made on transboundary collaboration since the tri-national meeting between Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia in N'Zérékoré in February 2002. However, on 20 April, the Centre received a request for international assistance from the Government of Liberia, to assist them with the preparation of a tentative list.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15A.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recommends the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia to follow up on the decisions and recommendations of the tri-national meeting held in N'Zérékoré to increase transboundary co-operation and inform the Centre on progress achieved;
2. Requests the State Party of Guinea to provide more detailed information on the expected restarting of the exploration studies in the mining enclave for which the concession rights were acquired by the Euronimba consortium, including relevant information on the potential impacts to integrity of the property;
3. Requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to submit by 1 February 2005 a report on the impact of hostilities on the conservation status of the property for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
4. Invites the State Party of Liberia to assess the feasibility of extending the property to Liberia as part of its work to prepare a tentative list of properties for nomination as World Heritage;
5. Decides to retain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

6. Air and Ténééré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$143,250 (including the US\$108, 250 for projects as part of the rehabilitation plan for the property).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.4

26 COM 21 (a) 5

Conservation issues:

The Committee at its 27th session expressed its serious concerns regarding the lack of clarity on information on vehicles provided with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and requested the State Party to report on this issue and on progress made in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan. At the time of the preparation of the document, no report has been provided by the State Party.

The Committee requested that IUCN and the Centre undertake a mission to the property and submit a report by 1 February 2004. In a letter dated 12 December 2003, the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Environment and Combat of Desertification invited the

Centre to undertake this mission in order to assess the state of conservation of the property. At the time of the preparation of this document, the mission had not yet been undertaken but it is scheduled to take place before the 28th session of the Committee. If the mission is undertaken, the findings will be presented during the Committee session and a revised draft decision might be proposed to take into account the conclusions of the mission.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Reiterates its concern that no report was provided by the State Party on the vehicles provided with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and on progress made in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan and urges the State Party to provide this report as soon as possible and no later than 1 December 2004;
2. Decides to retain Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

7. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total sum provided to the property: US\$241,297 (as emergency assistance and for equipment purchase and training).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7A.6

Conservation issues:

In its report to the 27th session of the Committee, IUCN confirmed the State Party's statement that the proliferation of the invasive species *Salvinia molesta*, which led to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000, had been reduced to an acceptably low level. The Centre and IUCN received a letter dated 3 March 2004 from the Director of the National Parks of Senegal, requesting the Committee to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and referring to a number of persisting threats already reported by the State Party in 2003, namely a retreat of natural faunal habitats due to the colonization of invasive aquatic species, growing salinity in the soils resulting in increased mortality of riverine vegetation and silting up of river courses causing a reduction in the natural river flow and impacts on biodiversity. The letter also has proposed a small experts workshop in order to urgently prepare a plan of action. The letter provides no information with regard to possible benchmarks and timeframes for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN reiterates its observation that, although *Salvinia molesta* is now under control in the property, monitoring is still needed and that there is a need to assess the threat caused by another invading species, *Typha australis*, which is colonizing open water bodies due to changing hydrological conditions created by the upstream dam. Unlike *Salvinia molesta*, which was introduced from the neotropics, *Typha australis* is a native species that due to changes in environmental conditions has been expanding rapidly into the ecosystem. IUCN notes that, being a native species, it is impossible to control using biological methods. However, it might be managed by increasing water depth, and/or cutting stems under water.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Requests the State Party to invite the Centre and IUCN in close co-operation with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, to organise an expert mission to the property to assess the level of threat posed by the proliferation of *Typha australis* and other invasive aquatic species as well as the other problems reported by the State Party, namely the growing salinity and the silting up of rivers and to advise on required actions and possible benchmarks and timeframes for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
2. Decides to retain Djoudj Bird Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

8. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1994

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property US\$96,249 (US\$32,249 for technical support activities and US\$64,000 as emergency assistance).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7A.7

Conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee, the State Party submitted a report in January 2004 prepared by the management authority of the property "Uganda Wildlife Authority" (UWA) addressing recommendations of the IUCN/Centre mission that visited Rwenzori Mountains National Park in 2003 and requesting that the property be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. In the report, the State Party asserts that the Park is now secure and that the management authority is in full control of the property.

The army has moved out of the Park and only carries out sporadic surveillance accompanied by Park staff. It is recalled that the Committee inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999 on the ground of lack of resources, suspension of projects and serious security issues because a large part of the property was out of the control of the management authority.

With regard to the specific recommendations of the IUCN/Centre mission, the State Party notes the following.

The Uganda Parliament in May 2002 approved the Protected Areas System Plan, which reconsiders all boundaries of wildlife protected areas managed by the UWA. The boundaries of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park are not altered but in this process, UWA has received greater financial support from the Government of Uganda, as well as funds from the World Bank under the Protected Areas Management for Sustainable Use (PAMSU) project, which includes funds for the marking of boundaries of the property as recommended by the IUCN/Centre mission. At the time of the report, 30% of the 150 km open boundary had been retraced and this activity is expected to be completed by June 2004. Planting of a Eucalyptus tree line to mark the boundary is expected to start in March 2004 and end by December 2004. So far, no map indicating the precise surveyed and marked boundary was transmitted to the Centre.

With regard to the management plan, the report notes that a ten-year General Management Plan to ensure the integrity of Rwenzori Mountains National Park is under preparation. The planning process started in April 2003 with selection of a planning team, which included UWA staff, local Government and local community representatives and non-governmental organizations working in the area. Consultations were carried out with all identified stakeholders including international organizations. Based on issues raised during the consultations proposed strategies and actions for inclusion in the General Management Plan were made. Since the proposals have been discussed at the highest level within UWA and found acceptable, park management has already embarked on their implementation awaiting formal approval, expected in June 2004, by the Board of Trustees, of UWA.

The report also mentions that a monitoring and research plan has been developed by the management authority, which include provisions for monitoring of illegal activities and extraction of natural resources such as poaching, logging and bamboo cutting as well as impacts of tourism, fires and human – wildlife conflicts.

As requested by the mission, a Community Protected Area Institution (CPI), a local community committee which works with UWA to address issues that affect the community/Park relations has been established. Furthermore, in co-operation with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), a project proposal is being prepared that will not only benefit the Park but also local communities surrounding the Park. The project will: reduce the

degradation of the lands around the Park by encouraging improved agricultural methods, agro forestry and better land use planning; improve management of the Park through assistance in staff training, provision of technical support and support to infrastructure development; establish effective mechanisms for Park-community communication and co-operation including enhancement of local government capacity for conservation-focused environmental planning; and provide assistance in the initiation and development of regional and trans-boundary processes and tools for the conservation of the Rwenzori Massif.

The State Party also reports on a number of measures it has undertaken to reduce the impact of tourism, and especially climbing expeditions on the property. The condition of the Central Circuit has been improved through re-routing to less steep areas where possible or by using switchbacks, creating steps, ladders and railings in steep rocky areas and the placement of board walks in the most boggy areas. A new policy has been introduced to reduce the numbers of porters accompanying the visitors. Furthermore, new climbing routes are being identified to divert some of the visitors away from the Central Circuit.

On the issue of landmines, the report mentions that UWA is working with security forces to identify areas with landmines and have them removed and that security forces have already drawn up a programme for mapping and demining the area. In a recent message to the Centre, the Director-General of the management authority insists that the issue of mines in the Park, is more of an after-war perception, rather than a real danger and that the State Party has the necessary capacity to deal with the issue.

The report does not provide new information on the recommendation by the mission to examine staffing and budgetary deficiencies, but does mention a shortage of management infrastructures, which have been identified as a priority for improvement in the General Management Plan. It states that the PAMSU project has set aside funds for the construction of offices, staff accommodation and outposts but that these funds are insufficient to cover all infrastructure needs of the Park. The report also contains no new information on the transboundary co-operation with the management of Virunga National Park that was encouraged by the mission.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Congratulates the State Party for successfully addressing most of the recommendations of the IUCN/Centre mission and for the work undertaken to maintain the integrity of the property despite the difficult socio-economic and political situation faced by the country in recent years;*
2. *Requests the State Party to submit to the Centre a copy of the General Management Plan as soon as it is*

approved by the Board of Trustees of Uganda Wildlife Authority and a map indicating the precise surveyed and marked boundary as soon as the activity to retrace and delineate the border is completed;

3. Requests the State Party to submit a report by 1 February, 2005 on the progress in the implementation of the General Management Plan, the preparation and implementation of a Tourism Strategy for the property, the demarcation of the boundaries, the removal of mines from the property and measures taken to enhance the human and financial resources required for the effective management of the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to work with UNESCO, IUCN and the DRC protected area authority to develop trans-boundary co-operation with the Virunga National Park and World Heritage property of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
5. Decides to remove Rwenzori Mountains National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

9. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Criteria: N (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided for the property: US\$100,000 (US\$50,000 for technical support and training activities and US\$50,000 as emergency assistance in 2002)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.8

26 COM 21 (a) 6

Conservation issues:

A monitoring report «Le suivi scientifique au Parc national de l'Ichkeul, Année 2002-2003» was received in March 2004 from the management authority "Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE)". The report provides a detailed description of the current state of conservation of the property and describes the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the workshop held in January 2003 to identify indicators and benchmarks in order to monitor the recovery of the property.

The winter season of 2002-2003 was marked by very different climatic conditions compared to previous years and this has had a positive impact on Lake Ichkeul. In particular, the report from ANPE notes:

- a) The amount of water flowing into the lake was greater than the average amount supplied before the dams were built. Nearly 500 million cubic metres of

water were supplied, some of it from natural precipitation and run-off; an additional 290 million cubic metres through releases from the dams upstream in 2002/2003, much greater than the annual average of between 80 and 120 million cubic metres recommended for the protection of Ichkeul;

- b) Salinity decreased from a very high level of 80 g/l in September 2002, to a low of 8.4 g/l in May 2003; as is usual in summer, salinity levels then increased, but only to a low figure of 15.6 g/l in August 2003; first indications are that salinity levels in midwinter 2003/04 were down to normal winter levels of 5-6 g/l and
- c) The entire area of the marshes of Ichkeul was flooded, including the higher areas of the Joumine marsh, while lower areas remained flooded for a significant period during springtime.

The general ecological restoration due to favourable climatic conditions at the property was followed by the natural regeneration of some of the vegetation, including the stands of *Scirpus* rushes throughout the marshes, which continued through the spring and the reappearance of pondweeds (*Potamogeton pectinatus*) for the first time in ten years in the lake, although to a lesser extent than in 1993 before the dams were built.

IUCN believes that the decrease in freshwater inflow caused partly by dam filling and partly by a succession of drier than average winters, has resulted in backflow of saline water from the sea into the lake. In this regard the unusually wet winter, the wettest for twenty years, has been enough to flush out all the accumulated salt, creating for the first time in 10 years suitable conditions for the germination of pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*). This vegetation is very important for a high number of bird species.

These observations show that, despite successive dry years, the ecosystem maintains the capacity to regenerate as soon as favourable conditions are restored, as was the case in 2002-2003. The preliminary observations of 2003-2004 also foresee a second consecutive year of favourable conditions, which will hopefully confirm the continuing rehabilitation of the ecosystem.

In line with the recommendations from the IUCN/Centre/Ramsar mission of February-March 2000, work was carried out in 2002-2003 to rehabilitate the sluice (installation of automatic sluice gates), which is now close to completion and is an essential element in the management of water in Ichkeul. Work was also carried out on bathymetric surveys of the lake bottom and topographic surveys of the marshes.

Notwithstanding the irregular nature of the hydrology in the past few seasons, IUCN notes the continued need for the State Party to ensure adequate and sustained environmental water inflows into the Lake Ichkeul ecosystem.

The State Party Report only covers monitoring issues, since this is ANPE's principal responsibility. IUCN would therefore seek the assurances from the State Party that the development of a new management plan for the property is satisfactorily progressing to ensure a proper management regime for the Park.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Commends the State Party for the dynamic way in which it has begun the implementation of the 2003 workshop recommendations, in particular monitoring, restoration of the water control structures and releases of fresh water from the dams;*
2. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to acknowledge that the Ichkeul National Park is considered as a "net consumer of water" and to confirm its commitment to an average annual release of 80 to 120 million cubic metres of water into the lake depending on the need as determined through the monitoring programme;*
3. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress achieved in the preparation of the Management Plan and in the implementation of the monitoring programme for the property, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;*
4. *Decides to retain the Ichkeul National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

10. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Year inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$165,000 (for equipment purchases, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community activities). In 1997 the Committee approved a rehabilitation plan prepared by the Government of India and agreed to provide, in principle and in a phased manner, a maximum of US\$235,000 for its implementation.

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.9

26 COM 21 (a) 4

Conservation issues:

Since the late '80s Bodo militants have restricted staff movements to effectively protect Manas. The Head of IUCN's Protected Areas Programme for Asia informed a panel at the IUCN Asia Pacific meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in December 2003, that the Government of

India and the Bodo people had signed an agreement on 6 December. Other unconfirmed reports received in December 2003 indicated that the Governments of India and Bhutan were taking consolidated actions to curtail militancy in order to security conditions for conservation action in and around the transborder Manas ecosystem.

By letter of 31 October 2003, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) requested authorization for changes in the use of funds available for the rehabilitation of Manas. The Chief Warden of Manas had proposed that the US\$20,000 remaining unspent from the US\$165,000 provided so far, and originally foreseen for buying two fiber-glass boats and 400 patrolling gears and for setting up an Internet facility be instead used for buying two wooden, mechanized boats with Kirloskar engines and camp equipment like mattresses, torches, first-aid kits, lanterns etc. After obtaining IUCN's consent, the Centre agreed to these changes.

In the same letter the Ministry had informed the Centre that it wishes to avail itself of the additional US\$70,000 from the Fund to fully use the US\$ 235,000 that the 1997 Bureau had agreed to grant, in principle, for the rehabilitation of Manas. The State Party wishes to use the US\$70,000 for the construction of three bridges at selected locations distributed throughout Manas. IUCN, based on recommendations of its visit to the property in early 2002 suggested that the US\$70,000 is better spent on the preparation of a management plan, linked to an operational plan, and for meeting needs of a number of other priorities identified by the 2002 mission e.g. training and capacity building, infrastructure and communications development, conservation education, interpretation and research. The Centre transmitted IUCN suggestions to MOEF and is awaiting a response.

At its last session the Committee noted that the Centre and MOEF were working with UN Foundation (UNF) to raise finances for a World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India (WHBPI) and requested that the State Party submit a progress report to the Centre, by 1 February 2004. Although no report from the State Party has been received thus far on this subject, UNF informed the Centre, MOEF and other partners on 8 April 2004, that its Board had approved a US\$5 million partnership for financing WHBPI. UNF will provide US\$2.5 million subject to the Centre, MOEF and others co-operating with UNF mobilizing the other US\$2.5 million from third party donors. WHBPI includes several activities benefiting staff and local communities of four of the five World Natural Heritage properties of India, including Manas.

The Centre has been working with UNF to contact and negotiate with other Foundations established by Indian expatriate communities in the US and interest them to contribute to World Heritage conservation. Currently the America India Foundation (AIF) and the Suri Saigal Foundation (SSF) have pledged to mobilize about US\$1.5 million to match UNF contributions to WHBPI partnership. The Ford Foundation, through its South Asia Office in New Delhi is studying the possibility to

contribute US\$400,000 to match an equivalent amount from UNF. All these Foundations wish that their contributions be used to improve livelihood options for communities resident in and around World Heritage properties. UNF's core contributions of US\$2.5 million on the other hand can be used for activities directly benefiting field staff and management capacity building. The Centre, UNF, MOEF and other partners are discussing the feasibility of convening a meeting during May-June 2004 at UNESCO, Paris, to discuss these and other options for financing WHBPI and take steps to begin implementation of site-specific conservation activities in and around Manas as quickly as possible. The outcome of these discussions will be reported at the time of the 28th session of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Congratulates the State Party and welcomes its commitment to co-operate with national and international partners to raise financing for World Heritage conservation in India;*
2. *Commends the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and its partners for committing financial support for World Heritage conservation in India including support to Manas Wildlife Sanctuary;*
3. *Recommends the Centre and IUCN to fully co-operate with the State Party, UNF and other national and international partners to begin activities benefiting Manas Wildlife Sanctuary as soon as possible;*
4. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint IUCN/Centre mission to the property to assess the security situation and ecological conditions and submit recommendations to the 29th session of the Committee;*
5. *Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

**11. Everglades National Park
(United States of America) (N 76)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1993
Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iv)*

*Previous International Assistance:
None*

*Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7A.11
26 COM 21 (a) 7*

Conservation issues:

In a letter dated 30 January 2004, the State Party provided an update on the situation of Everglades National Park and requested that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN noted that the report provides an update on specific accomplishments to address previously identified threats to the resources and integrity of Everglades National Park. These include:

- a) Alterations from the hydrological regime and impacts from adjacent urban growth, including reduced water levels from flood control operations: Government wide appropriations legislation has only recently been passed for the year 2004, and specific allocations are yet to be conveyed to respective agencies and programme management. Funding is provided for further refinement of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and implementation of initial projects. In April two CERP projects, including Southern Golden Gate Estates and the Indian River Lagoon South Restoration Project are expected to go to Congress for final authorization. The report indicates that if all CERP projects are successfully implemented, Everglades National Park, and other protected natural areas in South Florida could be transformed from some of the most threatened units in the National Park System to restore and unique areas of a healthy South Florida. The report asserts that hydrological restoration is a necessary precursor to biological recovery, citing one indicator species – the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. Counts of Sparrows conducted during the 2003 breeding season showed an estimated total of 3,216 birds, slightly up from 2002 (2,704 birds) and very similar to the 2001 total of 3,264 birds. It however raises concerns about this federally listed endangered species, found in areas of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Reserve. The once largest subpopulation has decreased by over 90% but has remained relatively constant at approximately 100 birds for the last three years. The report notes that since April 2003, other endangered species in the park are regarded as either stable in number, declining, or their numbers are undetermined.
- b) Increased nutrient pollution from agricultural activities: The report notes that in 2003, the State of Florida revised its Everglades Forever Act. This revision extended the legal deadline for conforming with numerical water quality standards from 2006 to 2116. The State's Environmental Regulatory Commission adopted the enforceable standard at 10 parts per billion (ppb) of phosphorous. In November 2003, the Commission's Everglades Phosphorous Rule was challenged by several interests before a Florida Administrative Law Judge. A settlement was reached on one of the challenges, in which the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection agreed to changes that will facilitate the enforcement of the 10 ppb phosphorous rule, by providing for measurement of the water quality compliance of effluent from the Everglades Agricultural Area when it first enters the wetland and not at its point of discharge. It is reported that on 1 January 2004 the 10 ppb “default standard” for phosphorous went into effect by operation of the Florida Law and that the US EPA must next approve the new water quality standard.

- c) Impacts on the ecology of the Florida Bay: The report notes that with generally wetter weather conditions in South Florida since 1994, relatively more fresh water has reached Florida Bay in the form of localized rainfall, and through drainage from more northern areas of the park. The result has been a general lowering of water salinity and reductions in the sizes of algal blooms. This suggests that attempts to restore water flows through the extent of the Park, once they are made operational, will be effective in helping to restore the ecological balance of Florida Bay. The current general management planning process is addressing concerns about numbers of boaters in Florida Bay and their impacts on bottomland wilderness, including especially propeller scars from boat groundings.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes the detailed report provided by the State Party and acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to achieve progress on the different programmes to restore and conserve this property;*
2. *Requests the State Party to submit by 1 February 2005 an updated report on the progress made in the restoration and conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;*
3. *Decides to retain Everglades National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

12. Sangay National Park (Ecuador) (N 260)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1983

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount provided for the property: US\$58,500 (for equipment, community awareness building and staff training).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 7A.13

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session, the Committee requested the State Party, with the support of the UNESCO/UNF/IUCN “Enhancing our Heritage project” and the Fundación Natura “Sangay project”, to provide a detailed update to the Centre on the state of conservation of Sangay National Park, including benchmarks and indicators relevant to monitoring programmes that could facilitate the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A report by the coordinators of the “Enhancing Our Heritage Project” and the “Fundación Natura Project” was received on 10 February 2004, though without any reference to benchmarks and indicators. No formal report from the State Party has been received.

The report noted that the construction of the Guamote – Macas road is expected to be completed by mid-2005 with the digging of a small tunnel section of about 800 m. Though the report states that an environmental impact study was undertaken prior to the construction of this section, there is no information on mitigation measures applied. At its 27th session, the Committee urged the State Party that all possible mitigation measures be applied to reduce the impacts of the road on the property. The Centre has not received any information with regard to the application of such measures.

The report also notes that no oil or mining activities are taking place either within, or surrounding the property, and that an army corps of engineers continues to lend support to the control of illegal removal of timber in the Andean zone of the Park. Since 2002, the State Party has introduced new forest management norms and a system of forest monitoring (called “Vigilancia Verde”). This monitoring mechanism provides for controls on the main roads against the illegal removal of timber in the Sangay National Park and its buffer zone.

In 2001, Fundación Natura supported two studies on hunting in the Amazon buffer zone inhabited by local Shuar communities. Both studies point to a reduction in hunting activities in the buffer zone. This is apparently due mainly to the distance that separates the Shuar communities from the property and the significant involvement of these indigenous groups in hunting management activities. In the farms along the Guamote-Macas road, the conflict between wildlife and agriculture remains unchanged.

The studies note that since 1999, the relationship between protected area staff and the local communities, which had been problematic in the past, has improved significantly and that an environment of mutual trust, understanding and respect has developed. Furthermore, the Ministry of

Environment has established new mechanisms to promote greater stakeholder participation in protected area management, including management committees and technical support groups, involving local governments, universities, non-governmental organizations and the business sector. This strategy has been implemented successfully in several protected areas and is now tested for Sangay National Park.

In the Guamoto-Macas area, the Park administration and the settlers have jointly established management criteria and zoning for land use activities in the area adjacent to the road. At present the “Sangay Project” is working with local communities to implement alternative sustainable use practices for natural resource management. The goal is to reduce poverty in the area, which is an underlying factor that triggers deforestation and other non sustainable activities.

The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with “Sangay project” prepared a census of properties in the vicinity of the Guamoto-Macas road. This report provides current information on land tenure and resource status. This information should provide a basis for the resolution of land tenure issues and the prevention of further immigration to the area.

In response to a call to bilateral and multilateral donors to fund priority activities in the management plan, IUCN notes that additional financial support has been provided by the Government of the Netherlands.

Subject to the results of an evaluation mission and to the State Party’s agreement, a recommendation with regard to the removal of this property from the List of World Heritage in Danger shall be presented to the 29th session of the Committee in 2005.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for its efforts in addressing key integrity issues in the management of the property;
2. Commends the Government of the Netherlands for providing financial support to conserving Sangay National Park and encourages it to continue doing so;
3. Commends the efforts of Fundación Natura in assisting the State Party to avoid land use conflict issues and to support sustainable development activities among the local residents;
4. Invites the State Party to continue working with Fundación Natura and other partners and stakeholders to reconcile human-wildlife conflicts along the Guamoto-Macas road;
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint IUCN/Centre mission to the property to confirm progress achieved in

addressing conservation threats in view of consideration by the Committee of the removal of the Sangay National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 29th session in 2005;

6. Decides to retain Sangay National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

13. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996
Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
Total amount provided to the property: US\$190,025 (for technical co-operation and training).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7 (a) 14

Conservation issues:
The Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (RPBR) World Heritage property was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996 following observations made during a mission in 1995. That same mission also provided a list of 10 recommendations for actions that would contribute to removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The 2000 mission evaluated progress against those 10 recommendations and concluded that progress made had not been sufficient to warrant recommending removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and made further recommendations and called for another mission in 2003. At the request of the 25th session of the Committee a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission visited Honduras from 23-28 June 2003 to assess the state of conservation of the property and to assess progress on the 10 recommendations made in 1995. The 2003 mission report, in English and Spanish, is available for consultation by States Parties.

It is important to note that the World Heritage property consists of a core zone in which human settlements are not permitted, and a buffer zone in which sustainable activities and human settlements are allowed.

The 2003 mission considered the recommendations made in the 1995 mission, along with the conclusions and suggestions made during the 2000 mission, and reported the following:

- a) The boundary of the property’s core zone is intact and clearly defined boundary markers were observed at those points of entry visited;
- b) Settlers within the property’s core zone have largely been removed, though 32 individuals continue to own land and seven families continue to live in the

core zone due to a lack of resettlement compensation funds;

- c) At the time of the mission, legal loopholes in the forestry regulations allowed for the “legalization” of illegally extracted timber from the core zone, though recent information provided by IUCN reveals that these loopholes have since been closed;
- d) Though access control posts had been erected at property access points, these were not manned, and no access control was taking place;
- e) A Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve administrative framework has been established and integrates various stakeholders in the management planning process;
- f) A management plan for the property has been developed, though it has not been widely disseminated;
- g) On-going immigration of subsistence farmers into the buffer zone to exploit its natural resources threatens the property’s long term integrity;
- h) Some land uses carried out in the buffer zone (e.g. extensive cattle ranching) are unsustainable and threaten the long term integrity of the property;
- i) The lack of infrastructure and services for small producers and potential tourism initiatives hinder sustainable economic development and are underlying causes for poverty, leading to over-exploitation of natural resources;
- j) The Government of Germany has provided significant help to the property’s management authority (the Honduras Forestry Development Commission - COHDEFOR) in the implementation of the recommendations made by the 1995 evaluation mission. However, there is some concern about the capacity of the State Party to assume the operations currently being covered by the Government of Germany, once its co-operation comes to an end.

Furthermore the mission came to the following conclusions:

- a) The State Party has complied to a large extent with the ten specific recommendations made by the 1995 evaluation mission;
- b) The level of threat experienced by the property has decreased since 1995;
- c) Certain threats persist, particularly the advance of the agricultural frontier and illegal timber harvesting in the buffer zone;

- d) The process of relocating settlers from within the core zone of the property has progressed considerably, but a small group of people remain;
- e) The restructuring of CODEHFOR, responsible for the management of the property, has imposed new limitations on the human and financial resources allocated to management issues;
- f) There is uncertainty in regards to the State Party’s ability to maintain strong and stable management presence in the area once the support from the Government of Germany comes to an end.

The Committee at its 27th session requested that management benchmarks and timeframes be identified to facilitate the removal of this property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Based on the recommendations of the previous missions and broad-based consultations with field staff, non-governmental organizations and community representatives, the mission team developed a list of benchmarks; the most critical of which are included in the draft decision below. The Centre notes that the State Party arranged for two high level meetings during the 2003 mission, at which were present several Ministers of the Government of Honduras. These meetings helped validate the findings of the mission team, clarify issues for leading decision-makers, and quickly establish a response strategy to deal with the issues raised.

The Centre and IUCN are currently collaborating with the State Party to monitor progress towards these benchmarks in 2004, and if sufficient progress could be achieved, an evaluation mission could be organized to carry out a site based assessment in early 2005. Subject to the level of progress towards the benchmarks and to the State Party’s agreement, a recommendation with regard to the removal of this property from the List of World Heritage in Danger may be presented to the 29th session of the Committee in 2005.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes that the property’s conditions have improved substantially since it was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996 and that the State Party is showing firm commitments to the conservation of the property;*
2. *Commends the State Party, non-governmental organizations, municipalities and communities in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, and international organizations for their support to implement the recommendations since the 2000 mission;*
3. *Commends the Government of Germany for having provided significant long term financial and technical assistance to the State Party, helping to strengthen*

management capacity for the property, and encourages the Government of Germany and others to help the State Party develop sustainable solutions for meeting the property's continuing financial and other management requirements;

4. Urges the State Party, in view of possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage In Danger, to meet the following benchmarks identified by the 2003 IUCN/Centre mission and to collaborate with IUCN/Centre in efforts to monitor their achievement:
 - a) Complete the compensation and relocation of the 7 families and 32 land owners remaining in the core zone;
 - b) Cancel all COHDEFOR resolutions related to dead wood harvesting in the Olancho, Colón and Atlántida departments;
 - c) Prevent unauthorized activities in the buffer zone, including: agricultural expansion, illegal logging and poaching, specifically by putting into operation permanent and temporary checkpoints located at critical access points;
 - d) Develop inter-institutional work plans that provide clear definitions of the roles and responsibilities of the various public and private entities involved in the Reserve's management and
 - e) Disseminate the environmental management plans related to the Ministry of Agriculture's development strategy within the Valle de Sico'Paulaya zone.
5. Recommends that the State Party implements the remaining recommendations included in the 2003 IUCN/UNESCO mission report;
6. Requests the State Party to assist IUCN and the Centre to monitor progress in reaching benchmarks established, and invite an evaluation mission in early 2005 in view of consideration by the Committee of removal of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 29th session in 2005;
7. Decides to retain the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

B. CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

14. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1985

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1985

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:

In 2000, US\$40,000 under Technical Assistance and US\$20,000 under Training Assistance.

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:
27 COM 7A.15

Conservation issues:

In 1999, a conservation and management plan for the Royal Palaces of Abomey was prepared and contained a list of priority activities whose implementation would result in the property being removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger within five years.

On 10 February 2004, the government of Benin transmitted to the Secretariat a copy of the monitoring report on the Royal Palaces of Abomey. That report, which the Cultural Heritage Office of Benin prepared in December 2003, underlined the recent conservation works, including, among others:

- a) Restoration of the Béhanzin's Palace :
The restoration was made possible thanks to financing from Japan's funds in trust to UNESCO. Of the 6.50-hectare area, Béhanzin's Palace (one of the important palaces that the site includes) consists of seven buildings and many great walls. Conservation works on the buildings consisted on restorations and a few reconstructions. The bas-reliefs were also restored, using mostly local materials (soot, seeds, kaolin, earth, etc.). The great walls were almost totally rebuilt of stabilized Cob. An Interpretation Centre, open to the public, will be created there and a study of tree species found at the site is also planned, with the aim of creating an interpretative ecological trail.
- b) Restoration of the huts of Queens Agadja and Béhanzin in the Dossèmè Queens quarter :
The restoration, carried out with the Abomey Museum's equity capital, mainly consisted in repairing and stabilizing the fences, repairing the earthen plaster, repairing the roof structures and protecting the foundation walls.

According to the same report, the diversification of the international partnership was very beneficial to the site. It made it possible, among other things, to entirely restore the Agassou temples and its main gravesites (Glèlè, the Glèlè spouses, Agonglo, the Agonglo spouses, Guezo, the Guezo spouses, Akaba). The principle international partners were Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United States. In addition to the usual museum visit, visitors may now take a specific route to see the temples and graves.

During its 27th session, the World Heritage Committee asked the Centre and ICOMOS to carry out, in co-operation with the State Party, a site evaluation mission with a view to drafting a report that will enable the Committee to study this property's state of conservation and then to decide whether or not to remove it from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 28th session in 2004. The evaluation mission is ongoing and its findings will be orally submitted to the World Heritage Committee as soon as it is completed.

Draft decision: **28 COM 15A.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Congratulates the State Party's efforts to improve the conservation of the property;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the governments of Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America for their generous contributions to the protection of the site,
3. Encourages the State Party to pursue the implementation of the restoration works and presentation as defined in the management plan;
4. Decides to retain the Royal Palaces of Abomey on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

15. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1990
Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (v)

Previous international assistance:

In 1989, US\$5,500, Preparatory Assistance for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger; in 1991, US\$45,000, Technical Co-operation; in 1995, US\$15,500, Technical Co-operation for the restoration of the three mosques; in 1996, US\$40,000, Technical Co-operation.

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:
27 COM 7A.16

Conservation issues:

From 25 to 29 August 2003, heavy torrential rains continuously fell on the city of Timbuktu. According to a detailed report by Mali's Ministry of Culture, which the Centre received on 24 September 2003, many of the city's quarters suffered damaged. Among them was the Medina, where the three mosques of Djingareyber, Sankoré and Sidi Yahia are located, as well as the 16 mausoleums inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

From 19 to 25 January 2004, Timbuktu also hosted a seminar on management plans for World Heritage properties in Mali and on the rehabilitation of Timbuktu's earthen architecture. This seminar was funded within the framework of the co-operation agreement between UNESCO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the end of the seminar, the participants recognized the need for the Malian properties to swiftly adopt a management and conservation plan. They also asked UNESCO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to begin a rehabilitation and revitalisation project for Timbuktu's earthen architecture.

The UNESCO mission present at the January 2004 seminar had the opportunity to visit all the quarters of the

city of Timbuktu that had been affected by flooding. At the end of the visits, the mission was able to make the following observations, which confirmed the report provided by the Ministry of Culture, concerning the old town:

- a) Of all the quarters affected by the torrential rains, Djingareyber, Sankoré and Hamabangou suffered the most severe damage;
- b) More than 50 homes collapsed in the Sankoré and Djingareyber quarters (where two of the mosques inscribed on the World Heritage List are located), leaving nearly 100 people homeless;
- c) Stagnant water clogged all the pipes supplying the fountains in several quarters with fresh drinking water. In the Sankoré quarter, the fountain located on the site of the former pond stopped operating after the flood, leaving the quarter's residents in a catastrophic hygiene situation;
- d) Some houses of the explorers who lived in Timbuktu were damaged by the rains and need to be restored;
- e) The 16 mausoleums, which the Italian consultants inventoried during the seminar, have also suffered damage.

In order to undertake emergency measures at the property and in the buffer zone, the State Party submitted a request for emergency assistance to the World Heritage Centre in January 2004. That request, for the amount of US\$ 50,000, has been made to carry out the following activities:

- a) Restoration of the Djingareyber, Sankoré and Sidi Yahia mosques;
- b) Restoration of the old town mausoleums;
- c) Clearing of the rubble of the collapsed houses in Sankoré and Djingareyber;
- d) Reconstruction of one room on the plot of each cleared house so that the homeless residents may gradually return;
- e) Repairing of the fountain located on the site of the former pond in Sankoré.

In order to ensure the implementation of these restoration activities, and in compliance with the need to leave the site's universal values unaffected, ICOMOS has emphasized the necessity to develop an overall strategy in the form of a management and conservation plan that takes into account the short-term restoration needs as well as the long-term steps that will help to prevent such floods from occurring in the future. The Chairperson of the Committee approved the emergency assistance on 7 April 2004.

Draft decision: 28 COM 15A. 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking note of the detailed report on the damage caused to the Timbuktu property by the floods in August 2003, which the UNESCO mission in January 2003 confirmed, as well as of the approval by the Chairperson of the Committee of the emergency assistance request submitted by the State Party,
2. Thanks the Italian government for its support in the organisation of the seminar on the management of World Heritage properties in Mali and on the rehabilitation of the earthen architecture of Timbuktu;
3. Encourages the State Party to carry out, as swiftly as possible, repair work on the three mosques of Djingareyber, Sankoré and Sidi Yahia, as well as on the 16 mausoleums, provided for in the framework of the emergency assistance;
4. Invites the international partners to support the Timbuktu earthen architecture rehabilitation project;
5. Decides to retain Timbuktu on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

16. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2002
Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous international assistance:
Total amount (up to 2004): US\$91,731

Previous Bureau/Committee debates:
26 COM 21(b) 34
27 COM 7A.17

Conservation issues:

At its 27th session, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2004, on progress achieved on the recommendations elaborated following the Centre's mission in September 2002, which were as follows:

- a) The immediate delimitation of the official perimeter of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone, based on the existing archaeological studies, and the issuing of a temporary official Decree freezing all constructions within those boundaries;
- b) The establishment of a plan, including a timeframe, to relocate approximately 100 families presently living within the perimeter of the property, in

consultation with them and with the local authorities;

- c) The strengthening of the human and financial resources of the local Inspectorate, possibly providing it with an annual operational budget (excluding staff and running costs), if possible equivalent to US\$50,000;
- d) The repairing of the roofing of the storages, which are currently in a critical condition, and where important objects are kept;
- e) Urgent preventive conservation measures for mosaics and other exposed structures, including more effective visitor control;
- f) The adoption of a legal text on the "protection and presentation of archaeological sites and their buffer zones" and the elaboration of a plan that establishes the construction, architecture, urban-planning and land-use regulations for the Tipasa site, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre;
- g) The preparation, in the above framework, of a Management Plan for the site, also in consultation with the Centre.

While drafting the present report, no information had reached the World Heritage Centre yet from the officials responsible for implementing the above-mentioned recommendations.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Strongly encourages the State Party to take the necessary measures for the urgent application of the recommendations included in the report of the mission of the Centre elaborated in September 2002;
2. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005, on the progress achieved on the above recommendations for review by the Committee at its 29th session, in 2005;
3. Decides to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

17. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2001
Criterion: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
2001: US\$14,000, technical co-operation (Ancient Thebes and Abu Mena)

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 44

27 COM 7A.18

Conservation issues:

At the request of the Egyptian Authorities, in September 2002, a World Heritage expert hydrologist carried out a mission to the World Heritage property of Abu Mena in order to evaluate the solutions proposed by the Supreme Council of Antiquities to counter the negative impact on the property of the rising level of groundwater. The mission had produced some recommendations, endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session, including:

- a) The establishment, within the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), of a Cultural Planning Unit (CPU) responsible for liaising with other Governmental Agencies to coordinate, plan and control the impact of development projects on cultural heritage sites;
- b) The review of the proposed engineering measures, taking into account the existing land reclamation activities and agricultural practices, to ensure that they are sustainable and cost-effective;
- c) The development of an Action Plan for Abu Mena, including provisions for a monitoring system with appropriate indicators and benchmarks, in consultation with all institutions involved, in particular with the Groundwater Research Institute, local authorities and farmers.

The Secretariat received from the State Party, with an accompanying letter dated 27 February 2004, an undated report on the state of conservation of the site (in Arabic). According to this report, the property of Abu Mena faced a new rise in the groundwater level, which led to further sliding of the soil in unexcavated areas, as well as near the cistern of the Cathedral and the eastern part of the tomb of Abu Mena. Most of the lower parts of the site have been filled by small lakes, which now surround the warehouse of the Antiquities Department as well as the rest house of the German Archaeological Mission. The draining trenches excavated around the site have been deepened, in co-operation with the Egyptian authority in charge of the water supply, so as to reduce the level of the ground water and enable the access to the site for archaeologists and visitors.

The report submitted by the State Party did not provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its 27th session.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15A.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party, and expresses its concerns over the deterioration of the property caused by rising groundwater levels and other threats;
2. Commends the State Party for the efforts made in order to solve the problems related to the rising ground water in the area;
3. Reiterates, however, the urgency to adopt more long-term and sustainable measures in coordination with the relevant national institutions and in accordance with the recommendations contained in the UNESCO Mission Report of September 2002;
4. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the institutions concerned and, if necessary, requesting assistance from the World Heritage Fund, to develop an Action Plan including provision for a monitoring system with appropriate indicators and benchmarks;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress of these recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
6. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

18. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

2003: US\$50,000, technical co-operation

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 8C.45

27 COM 8C.46

Conservation issues:

Further to the inscription of Ashur on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, at its 27th session, the World Heritage Committee approved an Emergency Assistance grant of US\$50,000 for the establishment of a site management coordination unit and the development of a management plan for the property, in view of the threats posed by the on-going construction of a Dam near the property. As a consequence of the war, the Dam Project was halted but the site of Ashur remained endangered as a result of widespread looting and lack of maintenance. It became urgent, therefore, to assist the responsible Iraqi authorities in strengthening the presence and capacity of its staff on the site.

To this end, the Secretariat established a contract with an expert archaeologist, as team leader, for the development of an emergency Conservation Plan for the site. This activity, to be developed in close co-operation with the State Party, is conceived also as a training opportunity for the technicians of the Iraqi State Board for Antiquities and Heritage (SBOAH) and includes the provision of some essential equipment for their work at the site. A preliminary work-plan has already been prepared although, owing to the current security constraints, the implementation of this activity has been delayed. The Centre plans to dispatch the first preparatory mission to the site with the objective of defining the details of the programme, as soon as possible.

Thanks to a grant from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation the Centre is organizing a Training Workshop to introduce ten Iraqi specialists to the concepts and procedures of the *Convention*. This Workshop is due to take place in June 2004 in Jordan and is being organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Amman.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes with concern that the security situation in Iraq is delaying implementation of activities critical for the conservation of Ashur;
2. Encourages the State Party to establish, as early as possible, a site management coordination unit, which will be responsible for any action to be undertaken on the property and shall constitute a counterpart of the Centre in the development of an emergency Conservation Plan;
3. Requests the Centre and ICOMOS to continue assisting the responsible Iraqi authorities, in every possible way, with the definition of an overall action plan for the conservation and management of the ancient city of Ashur, including capacity building for the staff of the State Board for the Antiquities and Heritage;
4. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

19. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1988

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000): US\$66,772

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 12

27 COM 7A.19

Conservation issues:

In June 2003, the Committee decided to consider the possibility of removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 28th Session, on the basis of the progress made by the State Party in the completion and adoption of the Management Plan for the site and having taken into account all ICOMOS recommendations.

In August 2003, the Centre provided the Omani authorities with its comments on an on-going project for a new market near the Fort including proposals for the urban development of the area, and on a draft interim version of the Management Plan for the property. These comments indicated that the Management Plan should be completed before any major urban project such as that of the new market is developed. The Centre reiterated the importance of preserving the authenticity of the property, including the use of traditional building materials and techniques and emphasised the need to further develop the contents of the draft Management Plan with a view to achieving a comprehensive and operational urban planning instrument for the Oasis and a conservation and presentation plan for the Fort.

A revised statement of significance for the property is included in the draft Management Plan, advising that, in addition to criterion (iv), under which the site was inscribed in 1987, criteria (v) and (vi) be considered in a future re-nomination and ICOMOS recommended that criterion (iii) should also be taken into consideration. A re-nomination should provide an up-dated definition of the boundaries of the core area and buffer zone of the World Heritage property.

ICOMOS conducted an evaluation of the Management Plan and the project for the construction of a new market near the Fort. Their report confirmed that the use of reinforced concrete covered with traditional plaster, as planned for the new market, would be inappropriate for a World Heritage property. ICOMOS stressed the importance of further developing the conservation and long-term maintenance guidelines for the Fort and Oasis, with particular reference to the *Aflaj* system, in order to address the question of the re-use of traditional buildings. The guidelines should take into account the potential for sustainable development. ICOMOS also suggested that a Site Commission be established for the implementation of the Management Plan, together with complementary facilities such as a Documentation Centre, a Conservation Laboratory and a Training Centre.

During the Regional Seminar for the Conservation of the Earthen Structures, in December 2003, the Centre carried out another mission to the property. The visit provided an opportunity to review, with the Omani authorities and the British management consultancy firm Atkins, and in light of the recommendations by the Committee, a final draft version of the Management Plan and to examine possible

solutions on how to move forward with the project for the new market. In a letter dated 22 December 2003 to the Permanent Delegation, the Centre presented its recommendations to the Omani authorities.

The Centre highlighted some areas that would still require improvement, including indications on the future use of the Fort and surrounding urban structures, traffic circulation within the Oasis, technical specifications for conservation of earthen structures in the Fort and elsewhere and the procedures for the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property. The Centre also stressed the need for the Omani authorities to give official endorsement to the Management Plan, as well as the necessary support in terms of institutional, financial and especially human resources, to ensure that, upon its completion, it would become operational as soon as possible. With that in mind, the Centre strongly recommended that a second stakeholders' Workshop be held to present the Plan and its conservation and development strategy for the property to the local community and other parties involved in order to integrate their reactions into the final document to be officially approved by the Government.

ICOMOS reviewed the final draft version of the Management Plan and observed that further research would be necessary, particularly on the development of conservation guidelines for the *Aflaj* system in the Oasis, and the finalisation of an Urban Conservation Plan.

Recognising the desire of the local authorities to overcome the current impasse with regard to the new market, the Centre, in consultation with CRATerre, recommended that the following criteria be adopted:

- The future market should not be increased in size with respect to the existing one;
- The original urban morphology (layout and typology) of the market should be maintained;
- The height and skyline of the built structures, as well as their architectural style and features should be in accordance with the character of the local surviving traditional shops in earthen material. New features inspired from recent markets built elsewhere in Oman should not be taken as a model.

Furthermore,

- a) the existing shops, including those severely damaged by the flood during spring 2003, should be restored using original materials and building techniques, and integrated into the new market. Modern materials may be used, if necessary and appropriate for sanitary and other reasons, only for those parts of the market which have completely deteriorated;
- b) the restoration of the Bahla market could be an opportunity to involve local master masons and unskilled youth in a social programme aimed at conserving and restoring the market of Bahla and to develop awareness and pride among its inhabitants for the value of their earthen heritage.

The Ministry of Heritage and Culture and CRATerre could be involved with the Ministry of Commerce in the initiative to transform what has been so far perceived as a "problem" into a model pilot project for the sustainable conservation of a World Heritage property;

- c) the selection of an agent to prepare a new project, in line with the above suggestions, should be the subject of a competitive process to which at least three Consultancy Firms should be invited to bid for.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes with satisfaction the considerable progress made by the State Party in the preparation of a Management Plan for the property, though a final plan is not yet ready;
2. Requests the State Party to pursue its efforts towards the finalisation of the Management Plan taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
3. Further requests the State Party to organize a second Stakeholders' Workshop to present the draft Management Plan and its conservation and development strategy for the site to the local community and other stakeholders so as to integrate their reactions into the final document to be officially approved by the Government;
4. Invites the State Party to review the project for the new market taking into consideration the criteria suggested by the Centre and CRATerre, and to ensure that it is compatible with the principles and objectives of the Management Plan under elaboration;
5. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

20. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

2003: US\$40,000, technical co-operation,

2002: US\$31,918, emergency assistance,

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 16

27 COM 7A.20

Conservation issues:

Within the framework of the International Assistance Request submitted by the Yemeni authorities and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session, in September-October 2003 a World Heritage expert architect carried out a mission to the World Heritage property of Zabid in order to improve, in close co-operation with the staff of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities (GOPHCY), the legal and technical aspects of the Preliminary Urban Conservation Plan prepared by the Secretariat in December 2002. The mission also provided an opportunity to start planning the organization of a meeting to coordinate the actions of all the stakeholders, tentatively scheduled for November 2004, and to discuss with the local authorities the possibility of establishing a "Heritage House of Zabid" as a special local Unit of GOPHCY.

With respect to the recommendations made by the Committee at its last session, the mission found that the illegal constructions referred to in previous reports, namely the hotel in front of the East gate and the foundations of the Public Works office building, are still in place, while the solid waste issue is not yet solved and new construction works in the historic city have not been halted. The state of conservation of some of the monuments, such as the Mosque Al-Ashaer, has also deteriorated. Outside the walls of the Old City, the Ministry of Public Works is enlarging the inter-regional road. The enlarging of this road could lead to the development of a spontaneous market outside the Old City, which would have a negative impact on the visual integrity of the property. The mission confirmed that the implementation of the Urban Conservation Plan developed in co-operation with the Centre over the past two years, including its regulations, would be the most appropriate means to improve the state of conservation of the property, starting by strengthening the local branch of GOPHCY.

At the time of drafting this report (April 2004), the Centre had not yet received the requested progress report from the State Party. However, the Secretariat has been recently informed that the Preliminary Urban Conservation Plan for the Old City may be finalized by June 2004 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration. The protocols for the financing of the running costs of the Heritage House are still under discussion between the GOPHCY and the Social Fund for Development (SFD).

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Notes the information provided by the Secretariat on the current state of conservation of the property and the lack of progress in implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in 2003, notably in the completion *and adoption of the Urban Conservation Plan, the halting and removal of illegal constructions, and the strengthening of the local Unit of the GOPHCY;*

2. Strongly urges the State Party to make every effort towards the rapid implementation of these actions, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre;
3. Urges the State Party, in particular, to finalise and adopt the Preliminary Urban Conservation Plan, together with its regulations, as soon as possible, and submit a report, by 1 February 2005, on the progress made to the Centre for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
4. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA-PACIFIC

21. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2002

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2002

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance

2003: US\$100,000, Emergency Assistance for the enhanced conservation and management of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 23.2

26 COM 23.3

27 COM 7A.21

27 COM 8B.2

Conservation Issues:

Following the inscription of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam on the World Heritage List in 2002, the Government of Italy financed a US\$50,000 Funds-in-Trust project for the elaboration of a management plan for the property. This project also aims to strengthen legal regulations for the protection of the property and enhance local awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage. As part of this project, a UNESCO expert mission was undertaken in January 2004. This mission included representatives from the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of Afghanistan.

This mission aimed to carry out a feasibility study for the construction of a road and a bridge at the World Heritage Site of Jam as well as advise the Afghan Government on the best possible option for the preservation of the site, taking into account Afghan national legislation, the *World Heritage Convention* and the immediate local needs.

The experts assessed, from a technical, archaeological and social point of view, the various possibilities for the construction of the road already proposed by Afghanistan, and the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture.

The mission resulted in a common agreement signed by the three commanders representing the local communities of Jam, the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture, the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, UNOPS, the Head of the Jam Rehabilitation Organization and UNESCO, by which all involved parties acknowledged that:

- a) The problem arising from the construction of the road is not under UNESCO's responsibility. UNESCO will however recommend to the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture the immediate construction of a footbridge across the Hari River in order to enable villagers access from the Bedam Valley to the Jam Valley;
- b) Priority must be given to the consolidation and restoration of the monument;
- c) The security of UNESCO experts, as well as that of all equipment, needs to be ensured in the district as a whole.

Considering the number of heavy vehicles crossing the Hari River daily, the construction of a simple ford is suggested as a complement to the footbridge. This solution would preserve the property's visual integrity without calling for further road construction in the vicinity of the Minaret, thus not significantly increasing traffic at the site.

The UNESCO mission observed with satisfaction the presence of several guards responsible for the surveillance of the site and paid by the Afghan Ministry of Interior.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for having reached a compromise solution concerning the road construction in the immediate vicinity of the Minaret of Jam;
2. Requests the State Party to respect and implement the recommendations of the UNESCO mission to enhance the protection, conservation and management of the property;
3. Requests the State Party, with assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate and finalize a site management plan as well as to strengthen legal protection for the property;
4. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

22. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

2003: US\$100,000, Assistance to the authorities for the preparation of the nomination dossier included within the Emergency Assistance Package

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

27 COM 8C.44

27 COM 8C. 45

Conservation Issues:

The Italian firm RODIO has successfully implemented the first phase of the emergency consolidation for the cliffs and niches. The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, Japan, has begun conservation work on the mural paintings in the Buddhist caves as well as the preparation of a General Master Plan. The Japanese company PASCO has initiated the 3D documentation and mapping of the property.

Furthermore, ICOMOS, financed by the Government of Germany, is currently restoring a Sunni mosque and another building located in the vicinity of the large Buddha. The building is being used to accommodate security staff and to store equipment. UNESCO is presently organising the provision of adequate water and electricity supply for this building.

In addition, UNESCO is assisting the Government of Afghanistan to create a site museum to be located in a traditional mud-brick house, which is currently being restored through contributions from the Government of Switzerland.

With the aim to ensure the coordination of all safeguarding activities in Bamiyan, a second UNESCO/ICOMOS Expert Working Group was held from 18-21 December 2003 in Munich, Germany, in order to evaluate the progress achieved in consolidation, conservation and archaeological excavation activities. The experts attending the working group commended the consolidation method and work carried out by RODIO. They also formulated concrete recommendations for the follow-up and a work-plan for 2004 for the final consolidation of the small Buddha niche and the conservation of the remains of the two Buddha statues, as well as for the preservation of the mural paintings and the coordination of the archaeological activities undertaken by the "Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan" (DAFA) and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NRICP), Japan.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for its dedication to the safeguarding of this property;
2. Requests the State Party with assistance from the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Kabul and the Division of Cultural Heritage, to submit a report on the State of Conservation of this property by 1 February 2005 for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
3. Thanks the Governments of Japan, Germany and Switzerland for their generous contributions towards the conservation of this property;
4. Reasserts the need for the International Community and various organizations involved in the protection of this property to continue their co-operation and assistance to the Afghan authorities;
5. Reiterates its concern over the significant and persisting danger posed by anti-personnel mines in various areas of the Bamiyan Valley and supports the request from the Afghan authorities that all cultural projects include funds for de-mining;
6. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

23. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992
Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
Total amount (up to 2004): US\$142,190

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
26 COM 21 (a) 10
27 COM 7A.22

Conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session.

The Government of France organized, with the assistance of the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, the Second Intergovernmental Conference on the Safeguarding and Development of Angkor (Paris, France, 14-15 November 2003). The main objectives of this conference were: (a) to assess the past decade's actions mainly dedicated to emergency safeguarding of the site; and (b) to launch a new decade of international assistance focused on sustainable development, in conformity with the priority of the Government of Cambodia.

The Technical Session of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and the Development of Angkor (ICC/Angkor), held in Siem Reap on 9 and 10 February 2004, reflected both safeguarding and sustainable development concerns, and gathered together new partners, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. This ICC Session also involved for the first time the APSARA Authority (Autorité pour la Préservation du site et l'Aménagement de la Région d'Angkor) in the organization of the meeting.

The State Party submitted a report to the Secretariat in January 2004. The report recapitulates the five conditions defined in 1992 as prerequisites for the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

From a World Heritage property in Danger, the site of Angkor has evolved into a World Heritage property in development. This has been recognised in the great efforts and corrective measures taken by the national authorities, especially since the establishment of the APSARA Authority in 1995, and in addressing the following challenges:

- a) De-mining, on-site looting, and vandalism:
The de-mining of the site has now been completed. The measures adopted by the Government of Cambodia to halt on-site looting and theft of cultural heritage have resulted in a drastic decrease of theft and smuggling of cultural artefacts from within the World Heritage property. The pressure of illegal trafficking of cultural artefacts is now gradually shifting to archaeological sites outside of Angkor.
- b) State of conservation:
Although the monuments and temples are in various states of conservation, the overall state of conservation of Angkor as a whole has dramatically improved in the last 12 years. A dozen international teams are currently working on conservation and restoration projects on-site, in close collaboration with the APSARA Authority.
- c) Administrative and legislative arrangements:
Cambodia benefits from an adequate legislation in terms of heritage management and protection, which is not however implemented to its full extent at the site-level. Since 1999, the APSARA Authority has acquired a greater financial sustainability and autonomy. The APSARA budget for 2002 totalled US\$4,021,745.81, mainly from entrance fees to the Angkor Archaeological Park.
- d) Training of personnel:
Training of the staff responsible for the different aspects of the management of Angkor (maintenance, restoration, administrative and financial management, tourism, etc.) is a major component in the success of APSARA over the years. The graduates of the Faculties of Archaeology and Architecture of the Royal

University of Fine Arts have regularly been hired to assist in the preservation of the property.

A project entitled "Training of APSARA cultural mediators", conceived by UNESCO and APSARA in close co-operation with the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism, to face rapid social changes and to benefit from the tourist industry, was successfully organized in September 2003. This capacity-building project, financed by the UNESCO Japan Funds-in-Trust Agreement, is an integrated component of the global strategy for the strengthening of Cambodian cultural institutions.

- e) **Tourism Development:**
During the Second Intergovernmental Conference on the Safeguarding and Development of Angkor, the parties involved insisted on the need for concerted tourism development and management of the Angkor Archaeological Park. A series of projects have been presented, ranging from the respect of authenticity in new constructions to the development of tourist circuits and the regulation of visitor flows on and off-site.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes with satisfaction the extra-budgetary funded operational projects for the conservation or the restoration of the site of Angkor;*
2. *Congratulates the State Party, including the APSARA Authority for their dedication in the safeguarding of the World Heritage property, as well as multilateral donors, such as France, Japan, Italy and bilateral donors such as China, India, Indonesia and Switzerland, the World Monuments Fund, and the private group ACCOR for their generous support;*
3. *Takes note of the remarkable improvement of the physical state of conservation of the property, as well as the results accomplished in the management and monitoring of the property by the APSARA Authority;*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, the Division of Cultural Heritage, ICOMOS and other partners to work closely with the State Party to ensure the long-term conservation and management of the property;*
5. *Decides to remove the property of Angkor from the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

24. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999
Criteria: C (i) (iii) (iv)

Previous International Assistance:
Total amount (up to 2004): US\$92,370

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7A.23

Conservation issues:

According to the Progress Report submitted to the Secretariat by the State Party on 8 April 2004, the *Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Act* (2002) was adopted by the State Legislature of the Karnataka Government, and its implementation should now be ensured towards prevention of uncontrolled urbanization in the World Heritage protected area.

The State Government of Karnataka has initiated the process of acquisition of land for the construction of the by-pass road, and the work is progressing rapidly. In a meeting on 3 March 2004, the State Government of Karnataka decided to first construct the by-pass road and only thereafter to take up the construction of the remaining portions of the Anegondi Bridge. The Public Works Department was directed to strictly adhere to the recommendations of the UNESCO Mission in May 2003 with regard to the location, transversal sections, longitudinal sections, cross sections of the by-pass road. The two pylons of the suspended Hampi footbridge have been demolished as per the recommendations of the UNESCO Mission.

The UNESCO Mission of 2003 had highlighted the importance of preparing a site management plan which would cover several key issues such as redefinition of the boundaries of the protected area, elaboration of mapping and urban development challenges. The Hampi Development Authority entrusted the preparation of the management plan to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage who completed the Hampi Management Plan. This plan is being examined by the Central Government (Archaeological Survey of India) and will then be submitted to the Secretariat for review and comments.

The Secretariat received information by the concerned local individuals that unauthorized constructions (i.e. huge shopping complex in the core zone) are taking place in and around the property which require immediate guidelines and provisions for issuing building licenses. Furthermore, it is reported that local habitants are in need of development of civic and hygienic conditions in the surrounding area, instead of investments for commercial and other activities that do not benefit the locals. There is also a need for better coordination between the State Government and the Central Government of India.

At the 27th session of the Committee in 2003, a total amount of US \$75,000 was approved as Emergency Assistance, for the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan for this property. Within the framework of this Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund, a Stakeholders Workshop was foreseen in January 2004 in order to meet the integrated needs of the region by establishing a better management mechanism (including legislation), institutional coordination and effective measures against rural development pressure. However, the Workshop had to be postponed and it is due to be convened in early June 2004.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for its decisions to postpone the completion of the vehicular bridge until the by-pass road is constructed, and to consider the vehicular bridge to be temporary, pending the identification of a long-term solution within the Hampi management plan, as well as for implementing other recommendations of the UNESCO Mission of 2003;
2. Stresses its concern for the need of local community participation in the decision making process for the conservation and management of the property, and its involvements concerning local development;
3. Invites the State Party to strengthen efforts to enhance better coordination and dialogue among different national and local stakeholders;
4. Urges the State Party to elaborate the comprehensive Management Plan, as soon as possible, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Recommends the State Party to establish a technical unit with appropriate capacity to support the Hampi World Heritage Management Authority, to ensure building control and community advisory services for conservation;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the Secretariat by 1 February 2005, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, notably on issues concerning the construction of the by-pass road and the bridges, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
7. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

25. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979
Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003
Criteria: C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:
Total amount (up to 2004): US\$332,775

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:
27 COM 7B.52

Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Committee inscribed this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 27th Session in 2003. In doing so, it recommended that the State Party should legally redefine the core and support zones of all Monument Zones, accompanied with management mechanisms to adequately conserve the remaining value of the property in the long term.

From September to November 2003, the Institute of Architecture of the University of Venice was commissioned by the Secretariat to examine the existing heritage value of the property, and prepare an inventory of recent constructions and demolitions for the Bhaktapur and Pashupatinath Monuments Zones, two of the seven Monument Zones that constitute the World Heritage property. The Final Report of this mission has been received by the Secretariat on 22 March 2004.

In September 2003, the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture undertook a mission to Swayambunath Monument Zone, in order to assess the negative impact of the fire, which broke out and led to serious damage of the structure and interior of the Pratappur Shrine. Following the fire, the Secretariat encouraged the State Party to submit an Emergency Assistance request to the World Heritage Fund, in order to establish a fire-fighting protocol. At the time of preparing this report, the request has not been received.

A Progress Report was submitted to the Secretariat by the State Party on 30 January 2004. It reports on the preparation of a management plan for the property: cadastral maps of all seven zones have been prepared, classification of monuments in all seven Monument Zones has been completed, maps showing the location of classified monuments are being prepared, and the recording of street facades of house, has been initiated. Work on the documentation of illegal constructions in order to decide whether any private houses should be modified or demolished is also in progress.

The State Party also stressed the need for more professional technical support for the capacity building of the national authority, and commented that the different UNESCO experts should not have given conflicting advice, and that better coordination could be exercised by the appointment of a single technical adviser.

Furthermore, a Technical Workshop is foreseen in May 2004 for the conservation of the property, to be organized by the Secretariat and the State Party. The expected outcomes of the Workshop include delineation of the protected core and buffer zones of the seven Monument Zones; identification of corrective measures to address illegal activities in the protected zones and the creation of a mechanism to enhance better coordination of the local management and monitoring, formulation of short and long term plans for the preservation of the urban fabric, active participation by stakeholders, and identification of priority areas and mechanisms for possible international partnerships. The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop will be reported to the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendation of the Technical Workshop for the Conservation of the property;
2. Commends the State Party for the initiatives that it has taken regarding the conservation and management of the property since its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
3. Expresses its grave concern that although the responsible authorities have made efforts with some positive outcomes, the threat of uncontrolled development persists, resulting in continuous reduction of the urban landscape and architectural fabric of the property, degrading the authenticity and integrity of the property as a whole;
4. Recommends the State Party to continue its work to legally protect the redefined core and buffer zones of the seven Monument Zones, and to implement sustainable management mechanisms to conserve the remaining World Heritage value of the property in the long-term;
5. Invites the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party in identifying an international technical advisor to provide professional support to the national and local authorities;
6. Encourages the State Party to submit a request for Emergency Assistance to set up a fire-fighting protocol for the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the Secretariat by 1 February 2005, a progress report on the state of conservation of the monumental ensembles and the vernacular fabric within the property, for examination by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
8. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**26. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)
(C 171-172)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2001): US\$115,000

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 13

27 COM 7A.24

Conservation issues:

According to a report from the Government of Pakistan in February 2004, the cultural heritage of Pakistan is being preserved under the Antiquities Act of 1975. The legislation for the provision of a 200-foot buffer zone around the protected monument is defined under this act. However, the Federal Government is not legally bound to acquire the area, which falls within the protected buffer zone. Construction in protected areas is regulated by Provincial Law and District Law. There is no provision within District Law or Provincial Law to stop such activities on privately owned land within the buffer zone of the protected monument. The Department of Archaeology and Museums therefore considers that the Provincial and District Government Laws regarding the building activities should be brought in conformity with the Antiquities Act of 1975. At present, the State Government of the Punjab has issued a directive to include provision in the Antiquities Act regarding the 200-foot buffer zone around the protected monument in the bylaws of the Provincial and District Government. In addition, in the current financial year the Government of Pakistan has allocated Rs. 5,000,000 to carry out conservation work at the Shalamar Gardens.

The World Heritage Committee, at its 24th session in 2000, approved an Emergency Assistance request for US\$ 50,000 to elaborate a comprehensive management plan and undertake consolidation and conservation measures of the hydraulic work. On 4 March 2004, the Government of Pakistan submitted a revised workplan and budget breakdown for the implementation of this project as recommended by the Committee.

A two-year project for the preservation of the Lahore Fort, financed by the Government of Norway in co-operation with the UNESCO Islamabad Office (US\$ 900,000), was launched in March 2003. This project focuses on a detailed examination of issues and threats facing the whole of the Lahore Fort, and the Shish Mahal in particular, and the development of a new Master Plan for the conservation and preservation of the Lahore Fort.

A World Heritage Centre mission to Islamabad and Lahore took place in June 2003 to follow up the corrective measures recommended by the World Heritage Committee for the Lahore Fort and the Shalamar Gardens. Regarding

conservation of the property, the mission recommended that it was urgent to:

- a) Resolve the general problem of drainage, rising moisture levels, humidity and chemical reactions that have affected all the structures of the site, before undertaking any restoration work,
- b) Control and regulate visitors, limiting and prohibiting visits to particular zones.

Additionally, concerning the Shalamar Gardens, the mission also recommended to:

- a) Settle the problem of urban encroachments on the eastern and northern sides in order to reduce the damage to the outside wall due to surface water seepage;
- b) Undertake the deviation of the Grand Trunk Road, and developing a protection area alongside the southern wall,
- c) Repair the water supply and drainage systems of the whole of the Gardens as soon as possible, in order to stop further deterioration.

Furthermore, the “Cultural Tourism in Lahore and Peshawar” project was established between UNESCO, UNDP and the Government of Pakistan, and a report issued in January 2004. It contains recommendations and project proposals in relation to tourism management.

In February 2004, when the Prime Minister of Pakistan announced the transfer of the custody of this property to the provincial authorities, the UNESCO Office in Islamabad expressed its concern in a letter to the Ministry of Minorities, Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs, and the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre requested the Department of Archaeology and Museums to clarify the situation concerning custody of this site, especially the effects of a change in management and administration, for discussion at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee. According to information received from the State Party in April 2004, it was confirmed that during the visit to the Lahore Fort on 20 February 2004, the Prime Minister of Pakistan announced that the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens would be handed over to the Provincial Government of the Punjab. Furthermore, the Federal Cabinet decided that these monuments should be transferred to the Government of the Punjab for their management and administration. The State Party also informed UNESCO that the Federal and the Provincial Governments are jointly preparing formalities for this transfer, which will take some time to complete.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Thanks the State Party for submitting the revised work plan and budget breakdown for implementing the Shalamar Gardens Emergency Assistance project;*

2. *Requests the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party in implementing this project;*
3. *Further requests the State Party to examine the heritage values of the Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort to redefine the core, buffer and support zones of these two properties;*
4. *Takes note with satisfaction of the on-going positive co-operation between the Department of Archaeology and other national, provincial and municipal authorities, in order to redress the encroachment issues surrounding the Shalamar Gardens;*
5. *Requests the State Party to continue to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the existing legal management provisions, particularly with a view to harmonizing provisions of national and provincial legislation with regard to constructions in areas immediately surrounding the Shalamar Gardens;*
6. *Urges the State Party to take all steps to ensure the establishment of an effective site management authority for the protection of the property, and inform the Committee of the effects that a change of custody of the property from national to provincial levels has had and will in the future have on the conservation of the property;*
7. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

27. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1995

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2001

Criteria: C (iii) (iv) (v)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$153,200

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 15

27 COM 7A.25

Conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee.

At its 25th session in 2001, the World Heritage Committee allocated US\$75,000 for the Enhancement of the Conservation and Management of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (25 COM XVIII.6.3). A first review and stakeholders workshop was conducted from 21-26 July 2003, in collaboration with UNESCO, during which the reasons for the degradation of the rice terraces were identified. A team of regional, national and local experts

were commissioned to update the existing Ifugao Rice Terraces Restoration and Preservation Master Plan, and to prepare project proposals aimed at reversing the degradation of the Rice Terraces. One of the project proposals being prepared is the continuation of the GIS mapping which will facilitate a joint learning approach to multi-stakeholder decision-making about the future of this World Heritage property in Danger.

The Institutional Development Unit of the Ifugao Rice Terraces Cultural Heritage Office (IRTCHO) under the Provincial Government of Ifugao, which is in charge of the management of the World Heritage property, has developed awareness-raising, advocacy and institutional coordination programmes and strategies to enhance community involvement in the preservation of the property. Barangay (Community) Development plans were established with the help of IRTCHO. Community Development Officers (CDOs) were appointed to facilitate resolutions pertaining to road rights-of-way and boundary disputes. IRTCHO also conducted a series of workshops in the villages within the World Heritage property to assist the villagers in the development of community-based land use, physical planning and zoning. Activities within this project aim at establishing zoning ordinances and ensuring conformity of new developments with these legislative mechanisms.

Research and data collection on the Ifugao agricultural cycles and rituals are almost completed. Various programmes for agriculture and watershed management have been accomplished, accompanied by environmental media campaigns aimed at strengthening environmental awareness. More than 80% of the projects identified and funded by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) under irrigation, hazard management, road development, and tourism development have been completed satisfactorily. Other projects include the road improvement at Battad, in the Banaue Municipality, and a series of 'Youth Road Shows' which were organized to address the vital role of youth in the preservation of the Rice Terraces.

A Second Review and Stakeholders Workshop was organized from 15-20 March 2004. During the workshop, project proposals prepared by local, national and regional consultants under the general categories of land management issues, agriculture and forestry, indigenous knowledge systems and ecotourism were reviewed and validated through village consultations held at the municipalities of Banaue, Hungduan, Mayoyao and Kiangnan (municipalities where rice terrace clusters included within the World Heritage property are located). The village consultations also provided the opportunity for some barangays to present their draft land use, zoning and physical plans, considering conservation issues and local values. IRTCHO will continue to assist the villages until their barangay land-use plans are finalized. All project proposals are now in the process of being finalized, incorporating the inputs from the villagers during the workshop.

The existing Ifugao Rice Terraces Restoration and Preservation Master Plan is now being updated to incorporate the proposed corrective measures identified under the Emergency Technical Co-operation for the Enhancement of the Conservation and Management of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras. The Master Plan, together with the statutes for the site management and the project proposals will be assembled and submitted to the World Heritage Centre later this year.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes with satisfaction the progressive implementation of the activities foreseen under the Emergency Assistance project approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 25th session in 2001;*
2. *Compliments the State Party on its renewed efforts to address the challenges faced by the property, especially with regard to irrigation, road developments and agricultural management;*
3. *Notes with appreciation the concern of the State Party to involve local communities and stakeholders in every stage of the conservation and management processes, and its dedication in raising awareness among younger generations on the outstanding universal value of the property;*
4. *Strongly encourages the State Party to explore possibilities for developing sustainable eco-tourism opportunities within and around the property, and to seek all possible national and international funding for that purpose;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit the final revised Master Plan, containing amongst others, measurable targets and benchmarks, as well as a strategy for mobilizing funds and international support for future conservation of the property, to the World Heritage Centre, no later than 1 February 2005, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005;*
6. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

EUROPE/NORTH AMERICA

28. Butrint (Albania) (C 570 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992, extended in 1999

Inscription in the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997
Criterion: C (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

1997: US\$100,000, Emergency Assistance (including US\$47,000 for immediate actions and US\$53,000 for the implementation of medium and long-term actions).

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 9

27 COM 7A.26

Conservation issues:

The inclusion of Butrint on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997 was motivated by the fact that the property had been faced with serious deterioration of materials resulting in an important loss of cultural significance. Other factors were a lack of conservation policy, the threatening effects of regional planning projects and gradual changes to the monument due to environmental factors.

As requested by the Committee (27 COM 7A.26), a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission took place from 26 to 31 October 2003 to assess the current situation of the property in terms of legal protection, management arrangements and the state of conservation. Its aim was also to evaluate the level of implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to Butrint in April 2001. The situation has improved in the legislative and institutional fields, and that important steps had been taken to better protect the area against illegal constructions negative impacts of regional planning projects. Strong commitment is being shown by the Albanian authorities to effectively protect the property. However, the mission concluded that effective implementation of these policies is inadequate, particularly because of the lack of an official management plan for the whole area and inefficient coordination between the different national and international stakeholders, which subsequently reduces the impact of funding.

The UNESCO-ICOMOS mission strongly recommended to the authorities the following:

- a) systematically continue the conservation works, also of architecturally less impressive archaeological sites, walls and buildings;
- b) pay special attention to the interpretation of the property, which has been considerably neglected from the point of view of its universal value;
- c) take appropriate measures for the effective protection of the property's cultural landscape, including the development of hydrological studies and sustainable agricultural methods;

- d) establish the area between the National Park and the RAMSAR site borders as a buffer zone of the World Heritage property, including the villages bordering the National Park and
- e) establish an urban development policy for these villages.

The mission further recommended preparing and adopting an integrated management plan in compliance with the existing legislation, which should specifically refer to ways of preserving the universal value of the property. The essentials of this management plan could be defined at a Round Table that would gather all the stakeholders (Butrint National Park Board members, international public and private organisations, local stakeholders and citizen's organisations). Such a Round Table should benefit from technical assistance from UNESCO and its Advisory Bodies, who may also be invited to send specialists to Albania in order to moderate the event. Following the Round Table and the adoption of a site management plan, the tasks and staffing of the management authority and its relation to the Board of the National Park should be clearly defined. The Board should be enlarged to include representatives from Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Defence.

The decision-making capacity of the Board should be improved by having a long-term strategy with clearly defined priorities, and by approving in its Annual Agreements the action plans for the implementation of the activities that are to be set out in the new management plan.

Draft Decision: **28 COM 15A.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Commends the State Party for the progress made with the legal protection and the institutional arrangements for the World Heritage property;
2. Acknowledges the results of the international UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property providing updated information;
3. Notes that the threats for which the property was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1997 have been partially mitigated through the improvement of its legal and institutional protection;
4. Expresses its concern about the difficulties in effectively implementing the measures aiming at the better interpretation and conservation of the property, in particular due to the lack of an officially adopted management plan;
5. Urges the State Party to take into account the specific recommendations from the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission of 2003, in particular to prepare and adopt a management plan for the World Heritage property as soon as possible;

6. *Endorses the proposal for a Round Table, to be organised in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, in order to include private and public stakeholders in the management planning, both at national as at international level;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to submit an international assistance request for the organisation of this Round Table;*
8. *Requests the State Party to provide an up-date report taking into account all the issues raised in the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission report of 2003, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005;*
9. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

29. The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000
Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003
Criterion: C (iv)

Previous international assistance:

1998: US\$15,000, Preparation of the nomination dossier for the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvansha Palace and the Maiden Tower

2004: US\$14,800, Updating and preparation of detailed plans and maps of the Icheri Sheher - Walled City of Baku

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (b) 36
 27 COM 7B.59

Conservation issues:

Since the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003, the World Heritage Centre has been preparing an Action Plan in consultation with UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Division, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the national authorities. One of the first steps foreseen in the Action Plan is a Round Table/workshop in September/October 2004 for stakeholders in order to share a common vision for the management of the site and to agree on concrete measures to be undertaken within the Action Plan.

As part of the Action Plan, the State Party has started a project in March 2004 with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund to update plans and maps together with an inventory of buildings within the World Heritage property. Planning for future conservation efforts needs to be based on the updated information on the state of conservation of the buildings and structures within the inscribed area of the World Heritage property. The preparation of detailed maps indicating the current state of

conservation of buildings and structures, accompanied by an inventory shall provide a basis on which different activities foreseen in the Action Plan will be developed. Within the framework of the Action Plan, other activities foreseen for implementation include the production of a short film and poster to be distributed in Azerbaijan. The aim of this activity, which will be financed by the German World Heritage Foundation, is to raise awareness about the *World Heritage Convention* as well as the conservation issues affecting the property. Moreover, the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division is organising a workshop on community participation in heritage management in May 2004, which will also address the conservation problems of the World Heritage property. A round table in Baku is foreseen in September/October 2004 in order to involve all stakeholders in sharing a common vision and to agree on concrete measures to be taken in the future for the conservation of the property. Relevant stakeholders include the representatives of the National Commission of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Baku, the Academy of Science of Azerbaijan, the Scientific Research Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Architectural Monuments (Azerberpa) as well as ICCROM, ICOMOS and UNESCO. This Round Table will provide an opportunity to develop the existing institutional structure and to ensure its coordination as it provides a platform for dialogues amongst international, national and regional stakeholders. Furthermore, the discussion at the Round Table will be a basis for the elaboration of a Master Plan for safeguarding the World Heritage property that incorporates a management plan, tourism development plan and conservation plan.

The Division of Cultural Heritage provided financial support in 2003 for the small-scale restoration of the mausoleum of the Sufi Saint, Seyid Yahya akuvie, located within the property.

The Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan invited an ICCROM expert mission from 10 to 15 November 2003 to examine the management mechanism of the old town of Baku. The mission recommended improving long-term management to take into account the specific situation in Baku, as well as to identify the needs for training and capacity building in the field of urban heritage management.

Having confirmed the findings and concerns highlighted by the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission in October 2002, the ICCROM mission of November 2003 further stressed the urgent need for the national authorities to provide political and financial support for the management of the site. Despite the Presidential Decree of January 2003, which ordered the ceasing of any unauthorized construction within the inscribed area, uncontrolled urban development and demolition of buildings continues to be observed. Planning processes for the management of the site are being delayed because the State Party does not have sufficient information and documentation on the state of conservation of the property, and faces financial constraints. The lack of coordination amongst the decision makers in the country, particularly between the national

authorities and the municipality, is of further concern. These factors are preventing the authorities from responding to the urgent management and conservation needs of the World Heritage property.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the State Party has not provided a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Acknowledges the recent effort of the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Division, the Advisory Bodies and the national authorities in setting up an Action Plan to address issues affecting the property, and welcomes the active co-operation amongst the stakeholders in the process;
2. Notes with concern that the State Party has not provided a report on the state of conservation of the property;
3. Further regrets that demolition and inappropriate urban development continues within the World Heritage property despite the Presidential Decree of 2003 to halt uncontrolled development within the World Heritage property;
4. Expresses its serious concern regarding the overall lack of management of the site and in particular insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
5. Urges the State Party to provide a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property prior to the Round Table in September/October 2004, so that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies can examine and propose appropriate follow up action;
6. Requests the State Party to continue to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division, ICOMOS and ICCROM in implementing activities foreseen in the Action Plan;
7. Strongly urges the State Party to elaborate a comprehensive Master Plan to address conservation issues, development control and tourism management in order to ensure the future preservation of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to review the situation and to provide a progress report including an updated Action Plan, no later than 1 February 2005, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session of the Committee in 2005.

9. Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku, with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower, on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

LATIN AMERICA

30. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1986

Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1986

Criteria: C (i) (iii)

Previous International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$48,650

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

26 COM 21 (a) 14

27 COM 7A. 28

Conservation Issues:

The Secretariat received on 30 January 2004 a progress report from the State Party containing information on the efforts undertaken to solve the immediate drainage problems and to cope with the damages affecting the property and the structures of the Tchudi Palace. While many projects have been initiated, including a general cleaning of the site, establishment of security facilities, conservation and rehabilitation of the site museum and certain monuments, and repair of the access road, the funds needed for the drainage of water from the *huachiques*, the low-lying ceremonial areas, exceeds the financial capacity of the management. Site managers have elaborated a technical plan to be developed in co-operation with national and international agencies to seek a lasting solution to the rising water level. The report further stated that Draft Legislation n° 3807, which declares the site of Chan-Chan in a state of emergency and offers a solution for relocating the squatters, has been pending in Congress for the past two years.

The Secretariat received, on 22 March 2004 via the UNESCO Office in Lima, a letter from the Association of Archaeologists of Peru expressing its deep concern over the damages affecting the property during the past two years, and drawing the attention of those responsible at the national level to the serious degradation of the site due to illegal constructions and the related use of land and water on the palace grounds, as well as the use of the archaeological protected area as a field for agricultural production.

ICOMOS commends the actions taken by the State Party for the conservation and rehabilitation of the Chan Chan World Heritage property. The problem of the illegal use of much of the site for agricultural purposes could be solved by the irrigation of an alternative site to which the squatters are being relocated. The implementation of the "Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex" has proceeded at pace in 2002 and 2003, and a number of important projects have been realized, in association with national and

international institutions. These include the general clearing up of the site, the establishment of security facilities, the repair of the access road, and an analysis of the quality and behaviour of the aquifer beneath the property.

Monitoring of the water table revealed a progressive rise in the lower part of the site in late 2002 and early 2003, attributable to the phenomenon of El Niño in 1998-99 followed by two years of higher than average humidity. This was made worse by a reduction in the extraction of water from the aquifer resulting from changes in agricultural techniques in the Moche valley. This led to greater humidity in the lower parts of the site and consequently an increase in salt contamination of the mud-brick structures and the growth of vegetation such as reeds and water lilies in the low-lying *huachaquas*. Efforts are being made through the Chavimochic Special Project to reduce this negative impact on the archaeological site by using the excess water for irrigation projects elsewhere in the region and by improving the overall drainage of the whole valley, since the problems of the Chan Chan site can only be tackled as part of a larger project covering the entire landscape. On the site itself work has been carried out to restore affected areas by removing salt-impregnated sections and installing pumps to drain the flooded *huachaquas*.

Draft Decision:

28 COM 15A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting the information on the state of conservation provided by the State Party,
2. Urges the State Party to finalize the legislative procedure for Draft Legislation n° 3807 and to inform the Committee of the appropriate measures taken to relocate the squatters;
3. Invites the State Party, once again, to consider requesting International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to identify appropriate remedial measures;
4. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report on the measures being applied to reduce the impact of the rising water levels in the aquifer of the property by 1 February 2005, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005;
5. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

JERUSALEM

31. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (proposed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) (C 148)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1982

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (vi)

Previous International Assistance:

None

Previous Bureau/Committee Deliberations:

None

Conservation issues:

The present report on the state of conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls was prepared on the basis of information collected by the Centre¹. The scope of this report is an assessment of the state of conservation of the World Heritage property of the Old City of Jerusalem in line with the guidelines for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This issue is also examined by the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO on the basis of the General Conference Resolution 32 C/39, which referred to "the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem", and to "31 C/Resolution 31, as well as to the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions (1949), The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and the related Protocol and to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO on the protection of the cultural heritage".

The boundaries of the World Heritage property coincide with the Walls of Suleyman the Magnificent, as no buffer zone was identified at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List.

In 1982, following the recommendations by ICOMOS, the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls was inscribed by the World Heritage Committee on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The justifications given by the Committee for the Danger listing (Cf. Doc. CLT-82/CH/CONF.015/8), with reference to the *Operational Guidelines* in force at the time, were the following: "...the situation of the property corresponds to the criteria mentioned in the ICOMOS note and, in particular, to criteria (e) (significant loss of historical authenticity) and (f) (important loss of cultural significance) as far as "ascertained danger" is concerned, and to criteria (a)

¹ The sources for the preparation of the report included: 1) All previous reports by the Special Advisers of the Director-General for Jerusalem; 2) International Charters and Conventions related to heritage and heritage conservation; and 3) Information gathered during the UNESCO mission of February/March 2004.

(modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection), (b) (lack of conservation policy) and (d) (threatening effect of town planning) as far as "potential danger" is concerned."

The above criteria have been considered as being still valid following the assessment by the UNESCO Mission to Jerusalem on the state of conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls led from 28 February to 5 March 2004. The following factors have been reported by the mission:

- a) Alteration to the urban historic fabric changing the traditional skyline of the Old City: alterations are also affecting the internal structure of vernacular buildings and, in some cases, historic monuments in the Old City;
- b) Alteration to the visual integrity of the roofscape within the Old City: the gradual new building development of the areas surrounding the Walls of the Old City negatively and irreversibly affected its traditional view;
- c) Lack of maintenance and inappropriate approach in the conservation of historic monuments: with some exceptions, the state of conservation of most of the historic monuments, in particular in the area covered by the Islamic historic monuments, within the Old City is generally poor, due to lack of maintenance and resources. Some sites, moreover, are left in a state of neglect and used as garbage dump. In many cases, the conservation approach does not apply international principles of the relevant ICOMOS Charters;
- d) Limitations to free access of labourers and supply of materials for conservation to the site: limited access, especially to Islamic historic monuments, is affecting the implementation of conservation activities;
- e) Traffic: increasing vehicular traffic within the Old City is a matter of concern. Traffic causes pollution and vibrations that can affect the state of conservation of the built historic fabric, and the occupation of public spaces generates a negative visual impact;
- f) Non-compliance with international standards in the field of archaeological research: archaeological research should take place in conformity with international principles and standards;
- g) Natural factors: the region of Jerusalem lies on an active seismic zone. There is no specific risk preparedness policy to protect the Old City and notably its main historic monuments. Water and fluctuations in temperature are also a cause of concern, as they affect the state of conservation of the limestone building materials.

Draft Decision: 28 COM 15A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction of the continuing efforts of the Director-General in pursuing a comprehensive initiative for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem in line with General Conference Resolution 32 C/Res.39 (October 2003);*
2. *Expresses its concern for the threats to the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the progressive alteration of its historic urban fabric and visual integrity, the lack of maintenance and inappropriate conservation approaches to some of its historic monuments, the difficulties posed by the present situation notably with regard to the free access of labourers to the site and supply of conservation materials;*
3. *Strongly encourages the responsible parties to facilitate to the maximum possible extent the normal progress of rehabilitation and conservation works within the Old City, by allowing the access of labourers and conservation materials as required;*
4. *Strongly encourages the authorities to establish, in close consultation and co-operation with all the concerned stakeholders, appropriate regulations, sensitive to the historic character of the City, for all rehabilitation and conservation activities within the Old City and to ensure their enforcement;*
5. *Further encourages the concerned parties to take into account, when undertaking conservation activities, the principles and recommendations of the relevant international Charters, particularly with regard to the need to preserve the authenticity and integrity of the site;*
6. *Requests all responsible authorities to ensure that international principles be applied with regard to interventions to the subsurface deposits in the Old City;*
7. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*